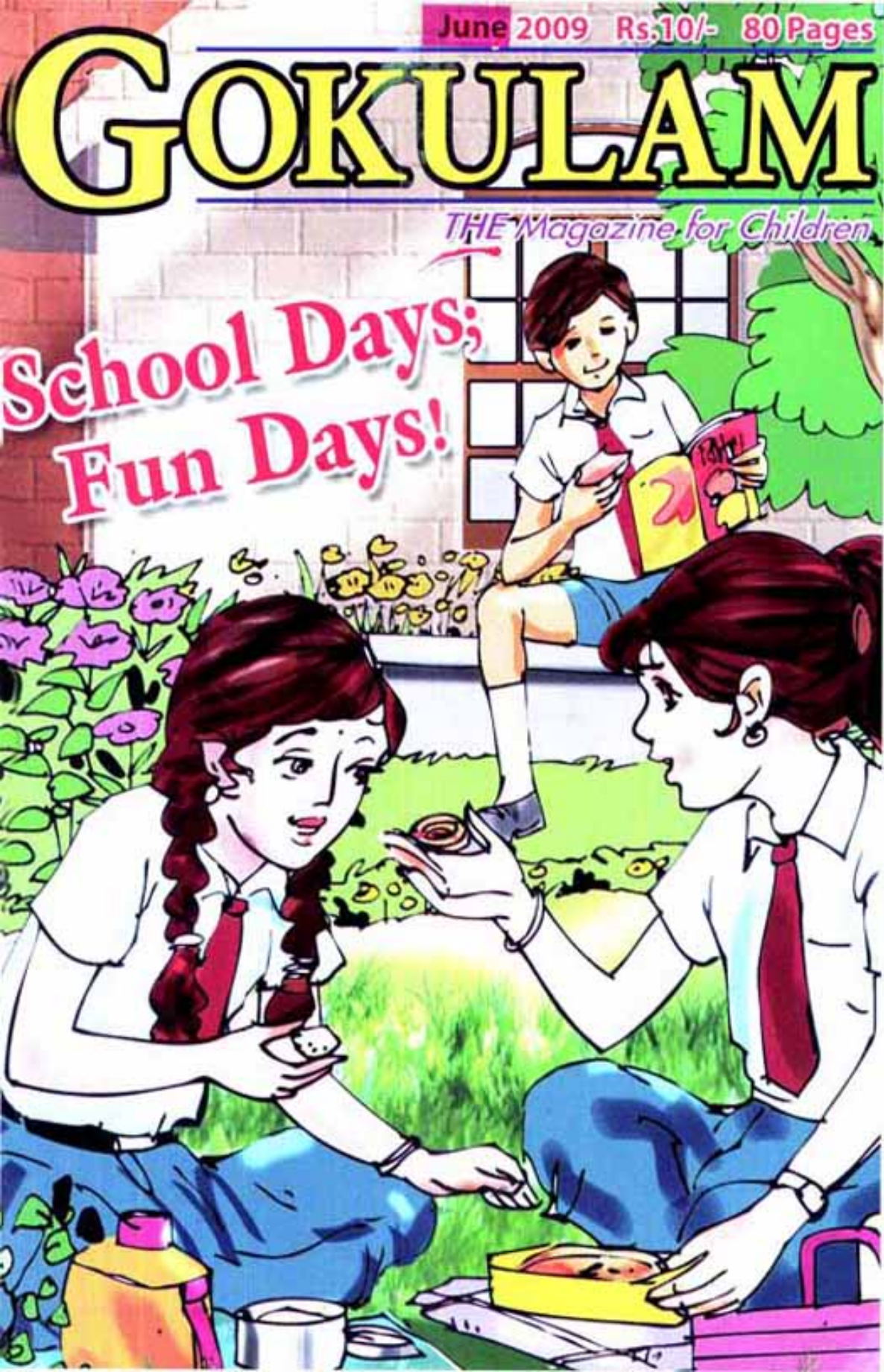
June 2009 Rs.10/- 80 Pages

GOKULAM

THE Magazine for Children

School Days; Fun Days!



MILKA
WONDER CAKE
MILKA
WONDER CAKE
VANILLA CAKE
Six Wonderful Tastes...

GOKULAM

THE Magazine for Children

June 2009 Vol.XXI, No.12

KALKI GROUP HOUSE of QUALITY

Of all created things the loveliest.
And most divine are children.
-William Canton

Cover Design : LALITHA

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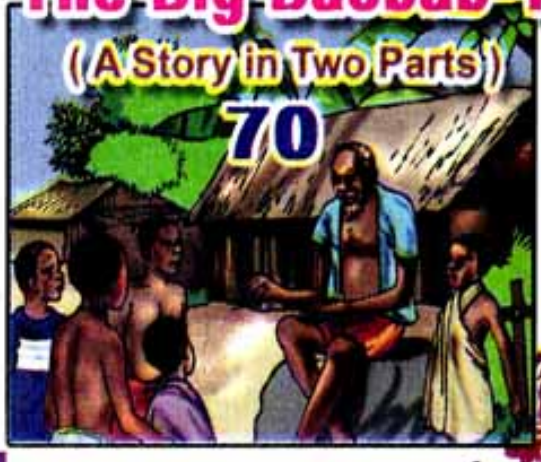

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THE Magazine for Children

Dear Readers,

"Use CFL and save electricity" is the slogan put out by the State Electricity Boards in India. C.F.L. or the Compact Fluorescent Lamp is very costly, compared to the traditional incandescent bulb. But it lasts longer, emits more light and there is no glare. There is a negative aspect too which cannot be ignored.

The C.F.L. contains mercury which is a neuro toxin and lead which too is poisonous. Waste disposal of spent fluorescent lamps whether compact or tubular is a big problem. In our country, they are just thrown into the garbage bins and later dumped some where in the outskirts of the city. Naturally the lamps get broken and the

poisonous substances in them pollute the earth. When there is rain, the underground water too gets contaminated.

In advanced countries like the U.S. where there is a lot of awareness about the environment, the Government insists that the manufacturers of these bulbs must have collection centres at the sale points and in other convenient locations. Spent bulbs are returned at these centres before the customer purchases new ones. A labelling system warns the purchaser about the toxic substances in the bulbs and the need for safe disposal of spent bulbs. The manufactures are also asked to recycle spent bulbs.

Discuss the subject with your parents, friends and neighbours whenever an opportunity arises. For, creating public awareness is the first step in tackling any social problem.

- Editor

Look out for the All-New GOKULAM Next Month

Anniversary Issue

Focus Light

-featuring your favourite sports star

Vote for Your Poster

-enabling readers to choose their poster

Sci-Galaxy

-stories that whiz through a world of amazing adventure

Land Ahoy!

-travel through your favourite pages

Jayalalita B.Iyer
Std IX, Mahila Samiti English High School, Thakurli.

Story

"Hey, let's go to the lake!" said Rajat to Ajay, as they cycled down the street. The boys were neighbours and studied in the same school. So they were good friends.

"But we are not allowed to go anywhere near the lake'" said Ajay. "It can be dangerous."

"Oh, come on Ajay, what harm can a calm lake do?" asked Rajat. "We'll have fun playing there. It will be cool."

"O.K. Let's go," said Ajay and the boys changed direction towards the lake.

The breeze was cool by the lake and Rajat took out the rubber ball from his pocket. The boys played throw and catch. They had good fun until Ajay missed to catch Rajat's throw and the ball fell into the lake!

"Go get it," said Rajat, pointing to the floating ball. Ajay ran up to the edge of the lake and put out his hand to retrieve the ball that bobbed at the edge of the shore. But the moment he made contact with the water, Ajay simply drowned.

Rajat was shocked with disbelief. 'How could a lake suck in people?' he thought. He knew how to swim but he was now afraid after seeing what happened to Ajay. But he had to save his friend! Without hesitating another moment, Rajat dived into the lake.

The waters were icy cold but he felt them only for a second. At the next, there was no water around and he could feel himself breathing easily! He opened his eyes to find himself in a cave – a cave which seemed to have no end! He began to walk through it and though he was a brave lad, he could not but help feeling terrified.

Lake

"Is this going to be the end of me?' he thought, as his feet ached. Just when he was about to slump down to the floor, he saw Ajay!

Ajay was almost frozen with fear and most relieved to meet Rajat. They began to walk together, though aimlessly. After what felt like hours, they met with the shock of their lives. There was a huge giant spider before them! The sheer size of the creature sent shivers through the boys. In addition, it's eyes burnt like pieces of charcoal and its hairy legs trundled around restlessly. Beneath one of it's legs, it held what Ajay thought was a packet of sorts.

"Looks like he is guarding the packet," muttered Ajay to Rajat. "We'll probably have to get it from

Adventure

him to rescue ourselves," he added in a low breath. Even before he could complete the sentence, the spider seemed to sense danger. A puff of smoky fire emanated from his cruel mouth.

"Run!" screamed Ajay, and just as he began to run the spider put out one hairy foot and Rajat managed to grab the packet. But Ajay got trapped under another of the spider's deadly feet!

For a moment, Rajat wanted to flee. But he could not leave Ajay. The spider seemed more enraged now and Rajat stood helpless for a second before the bright idea struck him.

Quickly, Rajat opened the packet that he had grabbed from the spider. It contained a stone. Acting on instinct again, he threw the stone at the spider. It moaned like a roar of thunder and to the amazement of the boys, it just disappeared from sight!

Where the spider stood, was now a wide opening, which the boys walked through. They walked on till they found light – the passage had led them back to the shores of the lake.

The boys hugged each other. The rubber ball still floated innocently at the lake edge and Ajay and Rajat just left it there and went back home. Should they tell their folks about their weird adventure? they wondered. No, nobody would believe it, anyway! But they had learnt now, why the lake side was forbidden!

- S.Jayachandran, Std.VII,
Ryan International School, Surat

A Great Democratic

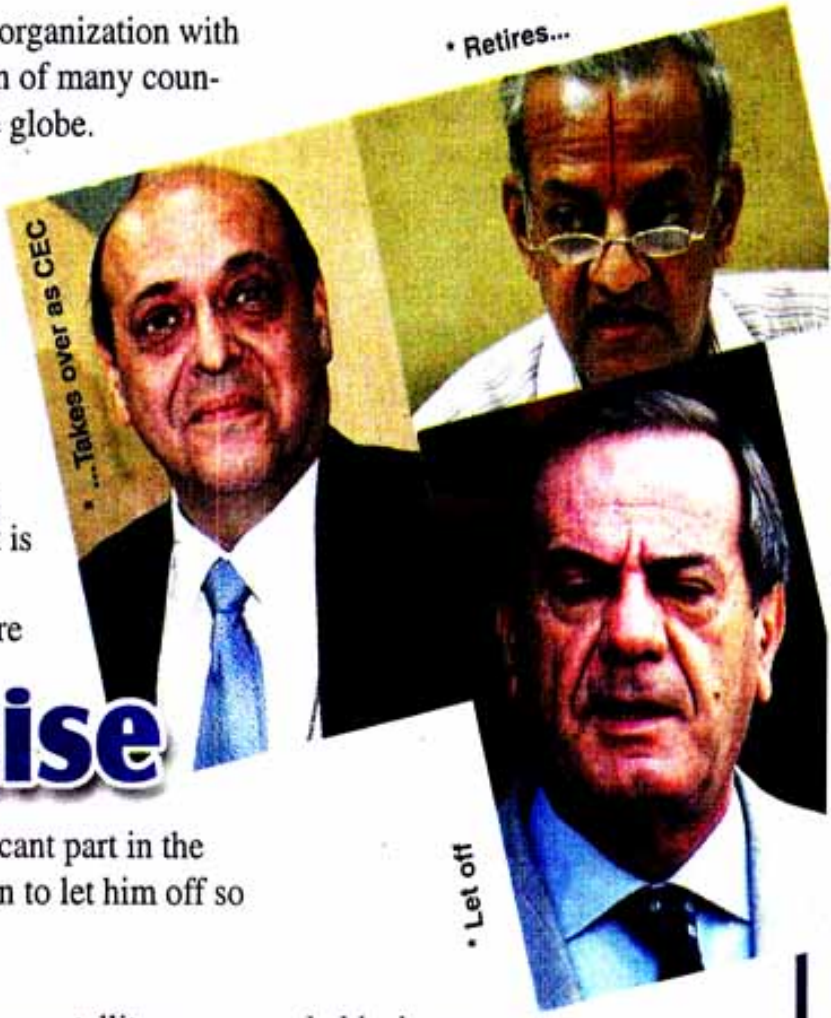
To those who thought that India will be burdened with a hung parliament, the election results came as a big surprise. The United Progressive Alliance (U.P.A.) retains power at the centre. Though it does not have an absolute majority (more than 50% of the seats) it can easily pull on for the next five years, with more parties joining the front or supporting it from outside. The Congress party, leader of the U.P.A., has made impressive gains and it is attributed to tireless work by young Rahul Gandhi in several northern states. He is expected to join the Manmohan Singh Cabinet. Advani, leader of the main opposition alliance, the N.D.A., offered to resign. But his party, the B.J.P., did not accept his offer and asked him to continue as leader of opposition in Parliament.

• Tireless work

Chief Election Commissioner N.Gopalaswamy retired right in the middle of the electoral process and Navin Chawla took over from him. V.S. Sampath was appointed as the third member of the election commission on the retirement of Gopalaswamy. S.Y. Quraishi continues as a member. The election commission has been very impartial, strict and fearless under the leadership of Gopalaswamy and it is hoped that the tradition will continue.

Quattrocchi, wanted in the Bofors scandal, is out of the Interpol net. The C.B.I. has taken a decision to withdraw its request with the Interpol for his arrest. Interpol is an inter-

national police organization with the participation of many countries around the globe. Quattrocchi is accused of receiving kickbacks when Bofors guns were purchased for our army. He is an Italian and it is suspected that political pressure



Exercise

played a significant part in the C.B.I.'s decision to let him off so easily.

A surveillance satellite was put in orbit by our scientists successfully from Sriharikota. The satellite was procured from Israel and it can keep a close watch on India's borders, both on land and sea. It can easily identify arms caches and bunkers.

The LTTE finally cornered in a small area by the Srilankan forces, held a huge Tamil population as a human shield and refused to surrender. President Rajapaksa ordered that ariel bombing and use of heavy artillary be stopped so that, the civilian population is not much affected. The Srilankan army managed to wipe out the terrorist organization inspite of civilian casualties. Prabhakaran, LTTE supremo and his aides have been killed.

• Determined

Are we Beasts of

Most responses to the question raised in the April issue of Gokulam are filled with indignant and pertinent comments. A miniscule minority support the schools' demand to bring all books every day!

It is heart-rending to hear about such school rules! Forcing us to carry all the books every day is just not fair. It will make us get stressed up and we will begin to dislike the school!

- C.Karthik, Std.X, A.G. High School, Ahmedabad; Maneesh Kumar Dora, Std.X, D.A.V. Public School, Bhubaneswar; Arun. R, Std.V, Poorna Learning Centre, Bengalooru

How can we carry all the books to school? Especially those of us who walk or cycle to school!

- T.Supraja, Std.VIII, Bhavan's Sri Ramakrishna Vidyalaya, Secunderabad

If any school has such a rule, it must immediately be scrapped. Students will end up with back pain or a hump back or other health complications. It also saps energy before they reach school and they cannot concentrate on studies. Even doctors advise that children should not carry heavy burden.

- Soundarya, Std.VI, St.Andrews High School, Secunderabad; V.Subash, Age:12, K.V., HVF, Chennai; V.Mahalakshmi, Std.X, St.Anne's MHSS, Kumbakonam; P.Preethi, Std.I, Freedom International School,

Bengalooru; Sudarshan Gopal, Std.VI, Apeejay School, New Delhi; Utpanna Hota, Std.VIII, D.A.V. Public School, Bhubaneswar; Aparna.S, Std.VIII, Holy Angels' ISC School, Nanthencode; Anjana Prabhu, Std.X, St.Mary's, Mangalore; N.R.Akshaya Reddy, Std.X, Good Shepherd M.H.S.S., Chennai; C.Adikeshav, Std.X, Vels Vidyashram, Chennai; Kristen Castelino, Std.V, Holy Family High School, Mumbai; V.Ashwini, Std.VIII, Maharishi Vidya Mandir, Hosur; Aashish, Std.X, SKCH, Bengalooru; C.Visalakshi, Std.VIII, Avila Convent, Coimbatore; R.Srivasupradha, Std.VI, SBOA School and JC, Chennai

Burden?!

Are we beasts of burden that we have to bring all the books every day? We students are also human! It is incorrect to make this rule or demand. It will lead to health problems later in life. It also takes the joy out of school and learning. Learning should be fun.

It is the responsibility of the school to lighten the burden of children who need to carry not only books but lunch bags, snack box and water bottles.

- Jaymin Gupta, Std.VIII, Prakash Higher Secondary School, Ahmedabad; Sanjana.L.P, Std.VII, IES School, Mumbai; Sneha.S, Std.VIII, Avila Convent MHSS, Covai; R.M.Mruthula, Std.VI, S.S..M.Lakshmi Ammal

Viewpoint

MHSS, Komarapalayam. Hamsini Natarajan, Std.XI, The Brigade School, Bengalooru; M.Kavya, Std.V, Sri Sankara Vidyalaya, Chennai; K.Madhu Karunya, Std.X, Bharathi MHSS, Coimbatore

My case is an example. Because I carried heavy bags to school, I have now a problem called 'para-spinal muscular spasm'. It really is not essential for us to carry all the books every day.

- Madhuvanthi, Std.VI, Sri Sankara Senior Secondary School, Chennai

If we are to take all the books every day, why have a time table at all? The time table is meant for us to learn to

get organized. We have a time table even in our daily life. If the schools are not going to follow the time table, they are discouraging students from being organized!

- Varun.M, Std.VIII, Capitol Public School, Bengalooru; Maanasa Natarajan, Std.VI, Bengalooru; Sarin.K.Salim, Std.X, St.Joseph's High School, Mathilakam; Yogika Garg, Age: 16, Sri Chaitanya Junior College, Hyderabad. Suhasini Ramani, Std.VI, G.D.Birla Centre for Education, Kolkata

Nowadays, the number of subjects that a student has to study has increased. Even according to time-table, the books that we need to carry are very heavy. In addition, to bring all books every day would be a punishment for the students. They will become tired when they reach the school! If any substitute teacher is taking lessons from a subject that is not part of the time table, the students can take notes in their rough books and then transfer the same to the relevant book.

- Ankita Jayant Mamania, Std.X, J B Khot School No.2, Mumbai; R.Krishnanunni, Std.VII, KV, DRDO, Bengalooru; Manoj Ravi, Std.XI, MVM, Chennai; R.Aiswarya, Std.IX, Adarsh Vidyalaya Matric School, Chennai; Anjali Muralidhar, Std.VII, Vidya Niketan, Bengalooru; Soubhagya S.Prabhu, Std.X, St. Mary's Bethany Public School, Kayamkulam

Yes, it is right to take all the books to school, because, we can revise more portions during the relief period and

also share the lessons of the previous day with those who were absent when they were taught. These 'extra' books will also come in useful if a teacher is absent and the class is to be handled for another subject. It would be helpful to the teachers if we brought all the books. We could also read from the 'non-time-table' books during free time.

- B.Aravinth Kumar, Std.VIII, Srinivasa Vidhyalaya MHSS, Udumalpet; Kirtisagar K. Sharma, Std.VII, St.Vincent's HS, Pune; J.Indhuja, Std.X, R.S.K. HSS, Trichy

Better to bring all the books rather than be scolded for not bringing something.

- A.Avinash, Std.XII, K.V., TBM, Chennai

In our school, we are punished if

QUESTION FOR THE MONTH :

"Is good hand-writing important?"

Send us your views by 25.06.2009. Each published entry will receive a prize of Rs. 25/-. Remember to include details of your age, class, school and residential address. Those of you who are non- residents of India should send us a local (Indian) address too. You can send entries by post or by e.mail (gokulam@kalkiweekly.com)

we carry books other than required by the time-table! If some schools are going to insist on all books being brought everyday, they can enforce it for classes above the eighth.

- Yazhini Anbumani, Std.IX, Kalaimagal Kalvi Nilayam, Erode

We have this system in our school and I know exactly how difficult it is. Students upto the third grade at least, must be allowed to bring only a limited number of books.

- B.Pranitha, Std.VIII, K.V, Mysore

At our school, if we carry extra books, our parents are called in the next day and asked to explain! Carrying all the books each day will not only ruin our backs but also our school bags!

- Krishna Mehta, Ahmedabad

Most books can be kept in the school cupboard itself, so that they are available when the classes have to be taken. Alternately, a locker could be provided to every student to leave the books behind according to his need and choice.

- Athipan Anbumani, Std.V, Kalaimagal Kalvi Nilayam, Erode; K.Kavi Priya, Std.VIII, Shrishti MHSS, Vellore; N.Adaikkappan, Std.IX, Delhi Public School, Bengalooru; E.Shanthi, Std.XI, Subbiah Vidyalayam Girls HSS, Thoothukkudi; J.Vishnu, Std.X, Shiksha Kendra, Vellore

If we are to take all the books everyday. Why have a time table at all?

Why not have the text books as cds and print out the lessons for the students each term? This will solve a lot of problems.

- C.Sai Sudarshan, Std.VIII, PSBB, Chennai; S.Gohula Sundar, Std.X, TNPL MHSS, Karur; C.K.Thiviya, Std. XII, K.V., Madurai; N.Mohanapriya, Std.VIII, Cluny MHSS, Salem; R.Ranjani, Std.IX, NSN MHSS, Chennai

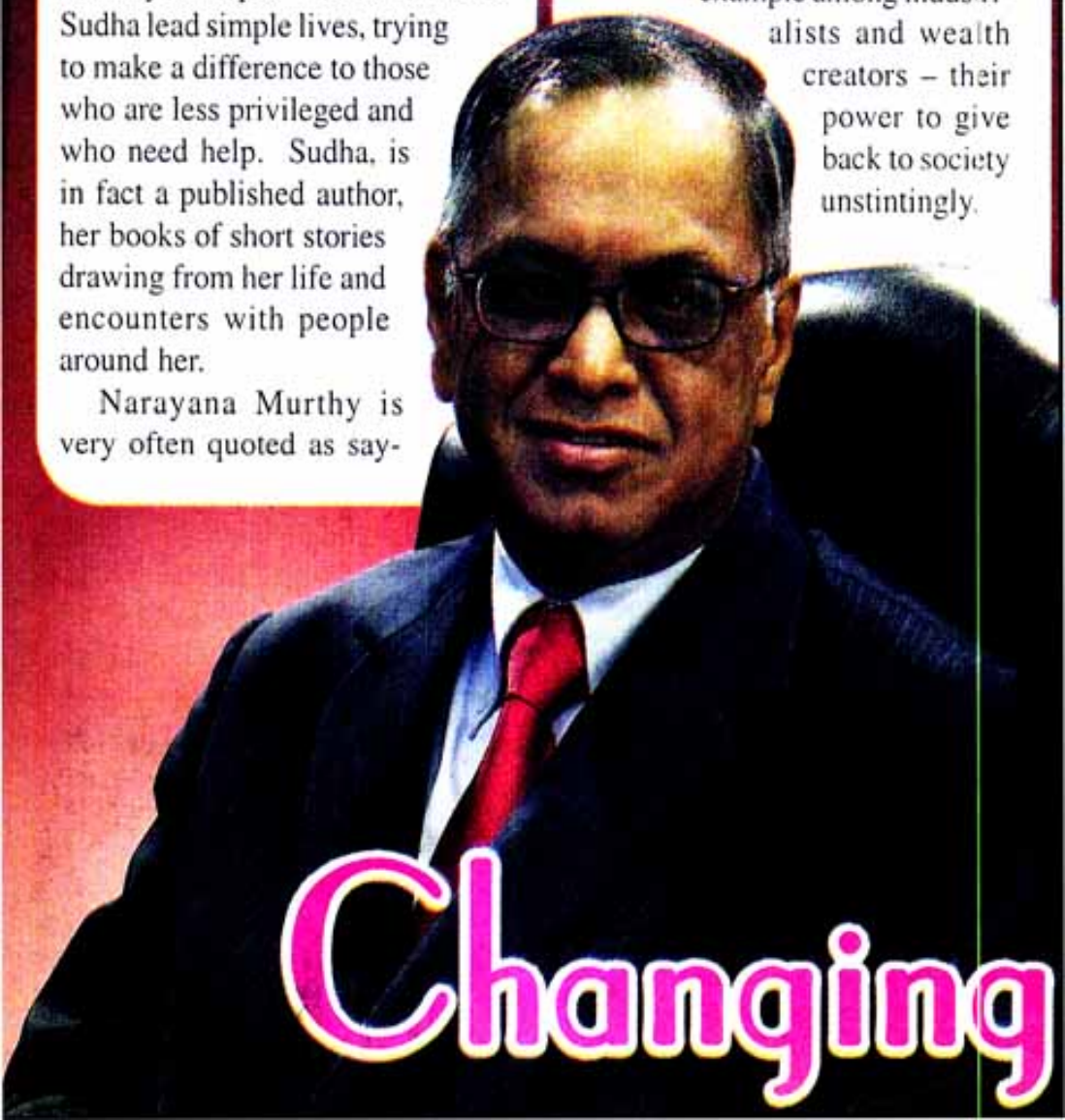
Time table should be followed strictly and if there is to be a change in the lessons, the students should be informed the previous day to bring extra books. It is unfair to ask them to bring the entire lot.

- Shreyas.K, Std.VIII, P.M.M Innerwheel School, Ambarnath; K.Brinda, Std.VI, SBOA School, Chennai

Why Infosys Narayana Murthy is an important example for an emerging India...

His latest book 'A Better India a Better World' details his vision for the emerging India. Nagavara Ramarao Narayana Murthy, better known as N. R. Narayana Murthy was one of the seven founders of IT giant Infosys, that was instrumental in opening up Indian industry to the world. Narayana Murthy lives by example – he and his wife Sudha lead simple lives, trying to make a difference to those who are less privileged and who need help. Sudha, is in fact a published author, her books of short stories drawing from her life and encounters with people around her.

Narayana Murthy is very often quoted as saying, "The power of wealth is to give it away." In an interview to The Independent, Murthy said, "When people get rich, they cut themselves off from the context that has earned them these riches - the context of the common men." It is this concern with the Common Man, that makes the Murthys different and an example among industrialists and wealth creators – their power to give back to society unstintingly.



Changing

Currently, Narayana Murthy is the non-executive Chairman and Chief Mentor of Infosys and also serves on several boards – like that of NDTV, Ford Foundation and the UN Foundation. He has also won many awards like the Padma Vibushan and the CBE from the British Government.

WHO IS NARAYANA MURTHY?

He is a Kannada Madhva Brahmin from Mysore and was born on August 20, 1946. An electrical engineer and an alumnus of IIT Kanpur, Murthy first began his career as the chief systems programmer in IIM Ahmedabad. He then joined Patni Computer Systems in Pune, and it was in this city that he met his wife Sudha. She was working for Telco (what is now Tata Motors), and was the first woman engineer to begin work there. Sudha, whose savings of Rs.10,000 helped start Infosys, also supported Murthy and his dreams, supporting the family with her earnings in times when the going was bad.

THE FOUNDING OF INFOSYS

It was in the year 1981, that Narayana Murthy began Infosys, with six other software professionals and served as the CEO of the company for 21 years from 1981 to 2002. Nandan Nilekani, N S Raghavan, S Gopalakrishnan, S D Shibulal, K Dinesh and Ashok Arora were the other co-founders.

Sudha Murthy recalls those initial years in an article she wrote: "I once again became a cook, programmer,

India with IT

clerk, secretary, office assistant et al. Nandan Nilekani and his wife Rohini stayed with us. While Rohini babysat my son, I wrote programs for Infosys. There was no car, no phone, and just two kids and a bunch of us working hard, juggling our lives and having fun while Infosys was taking shape. It was not only me but also the wives of other partners too who gave their unstinted support. We all knew that our men were trying to build something good."

BUILDING SOMETHING GOOD

Infosys grew in reputation and identity to represent the intellectual capital that India has now become famous for, world wide. It was the first Indian firm to be listed on Nasdaq and the first to offer stock options to its employees.

Today, the company is, according to their website, 'a global leader in the "next generation" of IT and consulting with revenues of over US$ 4 billion'.

Infosys has over 50 offices and development centres in India, China, Australia, the Czech Republic, Poland, the UK, Canada and Japan and over 103,000 employees. The company was ranked among the top 50 most respected companies in the world by Reputation Institute's Global Reputation Pulse 2009.

TAKING A BACK SEAT

Many surveys have thrown up Narayana Murthy's name as an admired CEO and global leader. He was also listed by Time magazine as an influential person. In 2002, at the age of 55, he stepped down to have Nandan Nilekeni take over as CEO. He has been quoted as saying, "We believe in thorough professionalism and I have learnt it is best to lead by example."

Narayana Murthy continues to be the non-executive Chairman and Chief Mentor of the IT Major and is showing the way by giving away much of his personal wealth. His take on this is, "You can have five cars, you can have five houses, you can send your children to the best schools, but then you can only eat twice a day... People like Bill Gates, who have given away enormous sums of money, are shining examples for all of us to follow."

TOON WORDS

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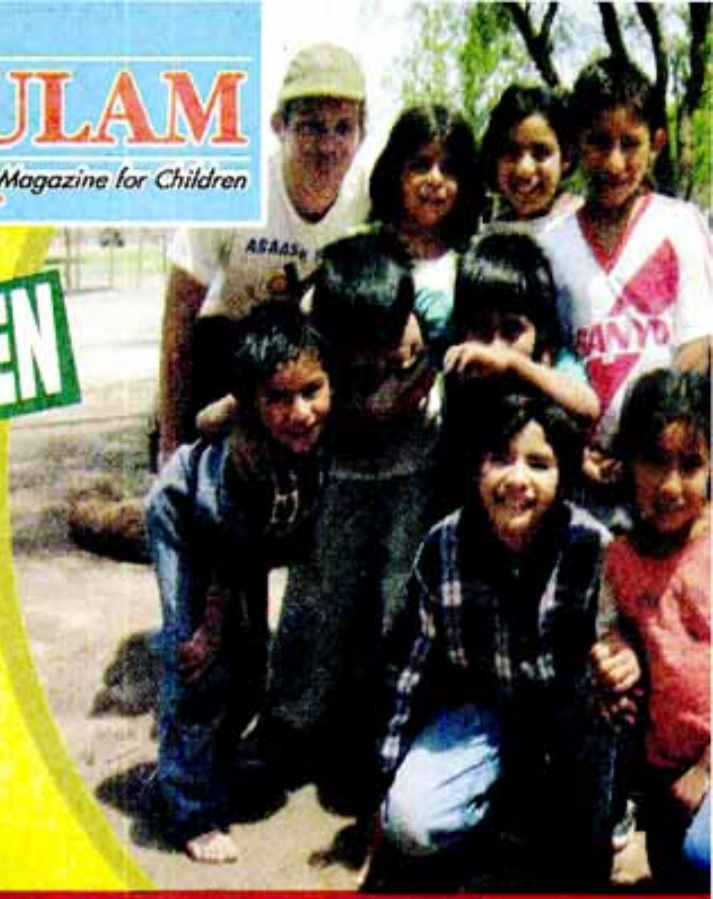
Concept : **S.Nagarajan,**
Ayyampalayam, Erode.

COLOUR-UP!

GOKULAM

THE Magazine for Children



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Adventures of Sitamma

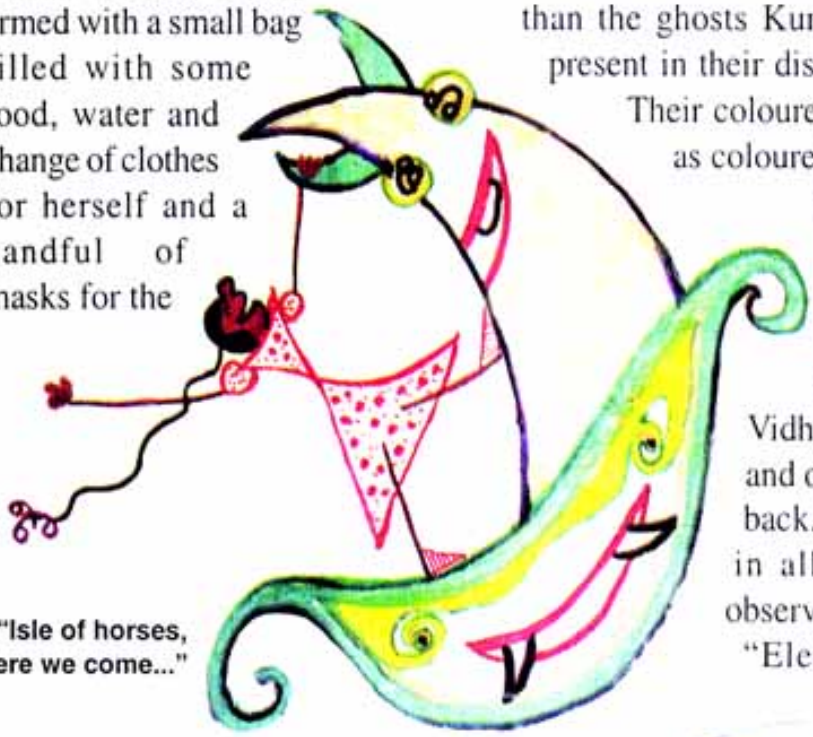
Episode III

The Five Tasks

"Okay boys! Here is our itinerary," said Sitamma staring into the map Vanithai the high priestess had given them. The girl sat at a spot at her village-edge, armed with a small bag filled with some food, water and change of clothes for herself and a handful of masks for the ghosts. Two flies, one red winged another green winged were hovering around Sitamma. A closer look would reveal that the flies were none other than the ghosts Kurali-Gnyamali, present in their discreet disguise. Their coloured horns shone as coloured wings of the flies.

"We have four tasks to complete en route to the Vidham Mountains and one on our way back. So five tasks in all. Hmmmm!" observed Sitamma.

"Elementary, my



* "Isle of horses, here we come..."

and the Twin Ghosts

Serial Story

* People ran helter-skelter...

dear girl," the ghosts Kurali-Gnyamali said congenially.

"First, we go to Ashwadweepa (the isle of the horses) to...," began Sitamma.

"...to beg, borrow or steal two hairs from the tail of a horse called Panchami. Right?" intercepted Kurali.

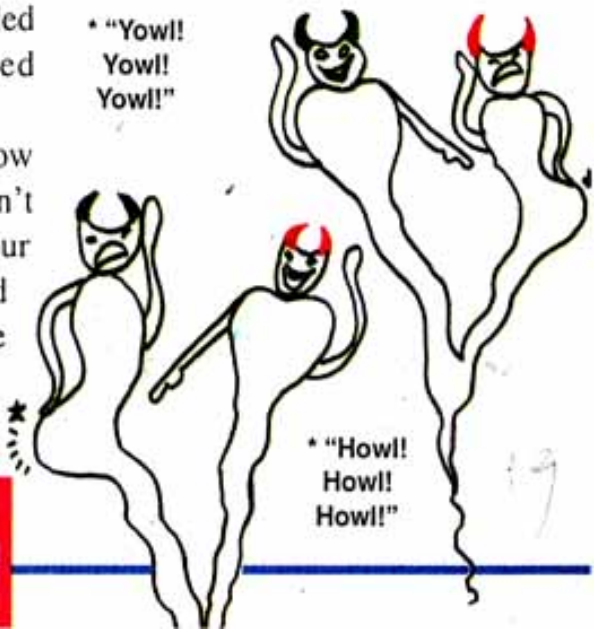
"Wrong. We can beg or borrow but cannot steal. Not if you don't want the map to combust in your hands," corrected Sitamma and continued- "We next go to the Vilwadweepa (the isle of vilwa leaf) to pluck some vilwa leaves from the sacred tree there to fashion a cup to collect the alluvial waters of the Vidham mountain."

"Why Vilwadweepa, why not Jamun-dweepa where we can pluck some jamuns to eat?" butted in Gnyamali.

"Or better Gulab Jamun-dweepa," drooled Kurali.

Sitamma briefly made a gesture of extracting the dreaded nail from her pocket and immediately the ghosts snapped up in attention and saluted Sitamma gravely.

"Ah! Much better," said a satisfied Sitamma and continued,



* "Yowl! Yowl! Yowl!"

* "Howl! Howl! Howl!"

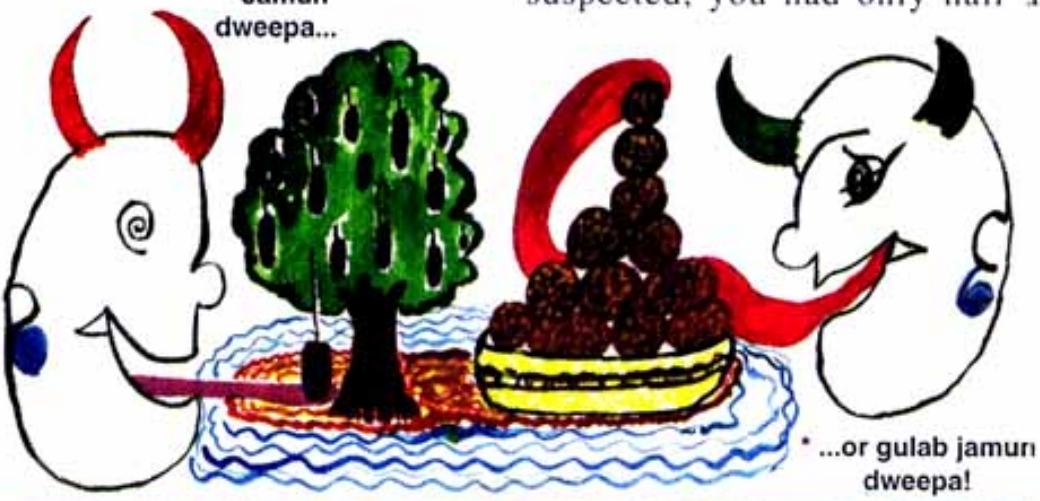
Story & Illustrations
JAYA MADHAVAN

"After finishing our tasks in the two isles we proceed to vanquish a mysterious creature and collect its skin that would protect us from the fires of the Vidham Mountains."

"Fireproof jackets are not available for money? Why can't this creature sell its skin for money? Why should it make us kill it for the skin remains a mystery. Maybe that is why it is called a mysterious creature?" asked the ghosts and began discussing the prospects of patenting the fireproof skin later to make money for themselves. Sitamma buried her head in her hands.

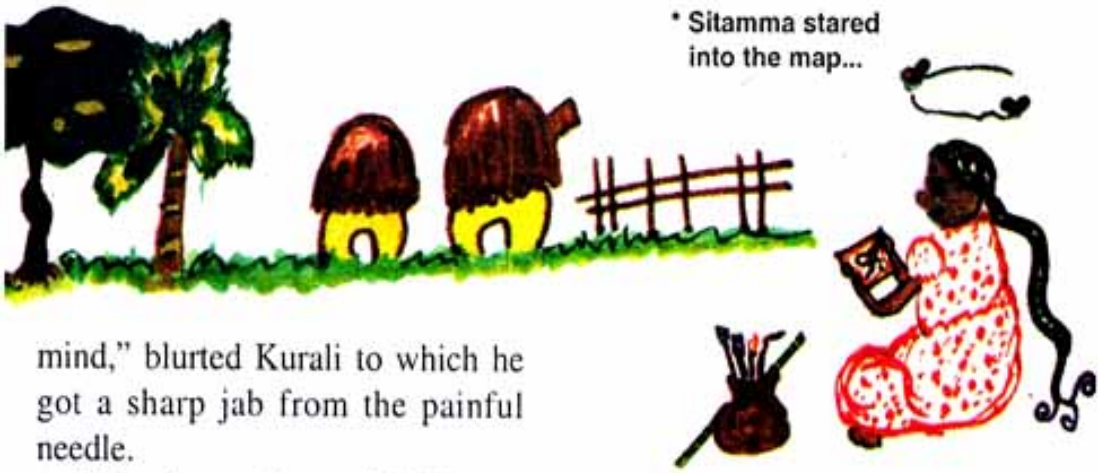
"You stupid ghosts. I have half a mind to turn you over to Vanitha. You both can be pulley and rope for the rest of your ghostly lives," she shouted.

"My god Sitamma! We always suspected, you had only half a



* Jamun dweepa...

* ...or gulab jamun dweepa!



• Sitamma stared into the map...

mind," blurted Kurali to which he got a sharp jab from the painful needle.

"Yowl, yowl, yowl," Kurali screamed much to Gnyamali's delight.

"I love you Sitamma," said Gnyamali gleefully to which he got a jab too.

"Howl, howl, howl," Gnyamali screamed much to Kurali's delight.

After both were sufficiently and mutually delighted and pained, the ghosts settled down to hear the fourth task.

"The fourth task is to fetch the alluvial waters from inside the Vidham Mountain at twilight. Now why does it have to be twilight?" wondered Sitamma. The ghosts meanwhile were busy arguing over something. Their heated talks emerged as "Aaaaaaaaaaaoooooooooooooo oooooooo-Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa aaaaaaaaaaaoooooooooooooo" sounds. At a distance people were seen running helter-skelter in fear.

"Ghosts, ghosts, ghosts," the people were screaming. Some fainted.

"We better move out of here fast, before I am tied to a tree and whipped or something," said Sitamma gravely. "Anyway what was the argument about?" she asked.

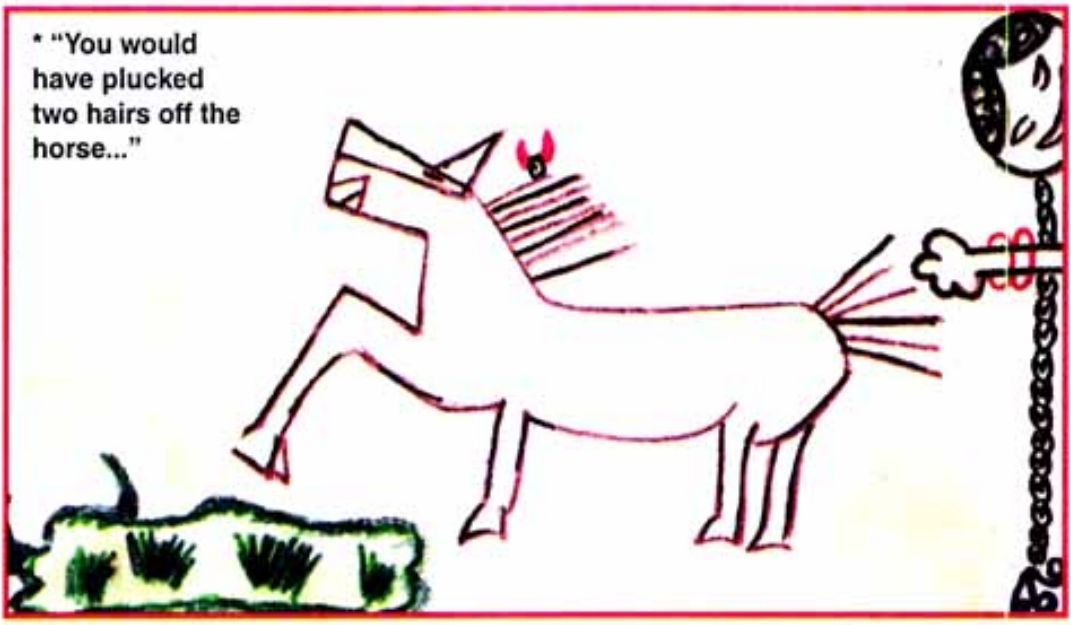
"Kurali here wants to wear Damar Baba's mask right away so that we can pick some interesting fights for the road," said Gnyamali.

"And what do you think of Kurali's idea?" asked Sitamma.

"Actually we are having an interesting fight about that," replied Kurali solemnly.

Sitamma sat down and sighed.

"I don't think you both understand the gravity of the situation. Fact is, this mission is very critical for us and our future. I don't know about you both, but I want to stop being a sorcerer's apprentice. I



* "You would have plucked two hairs off the horse..."

want to be free and good."

"When we feel like turning good, we usually sleep until the feeling passes," said the ghosts. Sitamma ignored them.

"Do you two irresponsible ghosts even remember that you both were humans once upon a time and were apprentices like me before you both died on a mission set by Damar Baba? Living or dead, Baba makes us work for him. That is why he does not care about the kind of missions he sets us. The three of us have a chance at freedom. Let us use it," said Sitamma.

"We were humans? One or two? What were our names? Who were we?" Kurali-Gnyamali couldn't stop asking questions.

"Ah! Dear boys! That is irrelevant now. Let us finish this mission, find answers to our questions and find a new way of life," said Sitamma

"But what new life can a ghost have?" asked the ghosts.

"Maybe we will find you the skin of an animal or a man to inhabit. Who knows?" asked Sitamma and immediately the ghosts eyes lit up.

"Really?" asked Kurali-Gnyamali

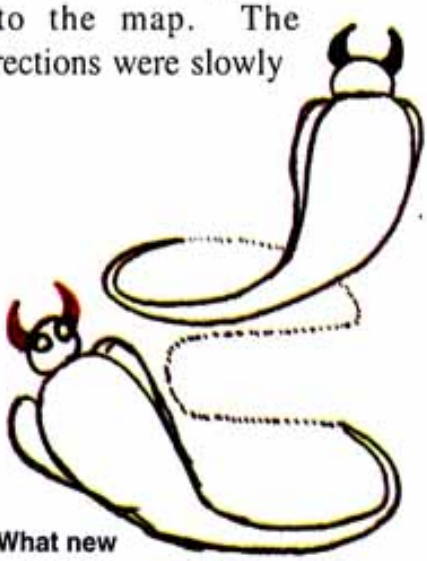
"Then come-come-come- come. Let us leave for Laddoo-dweepa immediately," said Gnyamali.

"Its Jamun-Dweepa," corrected Kurali.

"Neither. It is Ashwa Dweepa and get ready to encounter a fierce horse there," said Sitamma and asked, "How would we have taken two hairs of a horse, if we were our usual selves?"

"Gnyamali would have turned into a patch of green for the horse to graze and I would have turned into a tic. So while the horse would be torn between eating the luscious grass and shaking off the stinging tic, you would have plucked two hairs off the horse. Heh-heh, simple," said Kurali.

"Let me see if this is permissible," said Sitamma and glanced into the map. The directions were slowly fading in the map.



"Okay-okay. We won't do it that way! Sorry," she cried and immediately the route materialized again on the map

"What a blackmailer this Vanithai is," grumbled the ghosts and instantly the map turned black.

"Aaaaaaah! Vanithai is the best. She is a goddess. She is sun, moon, star, superstar....." the ghosts began to rant and the map appeared again on the paper.

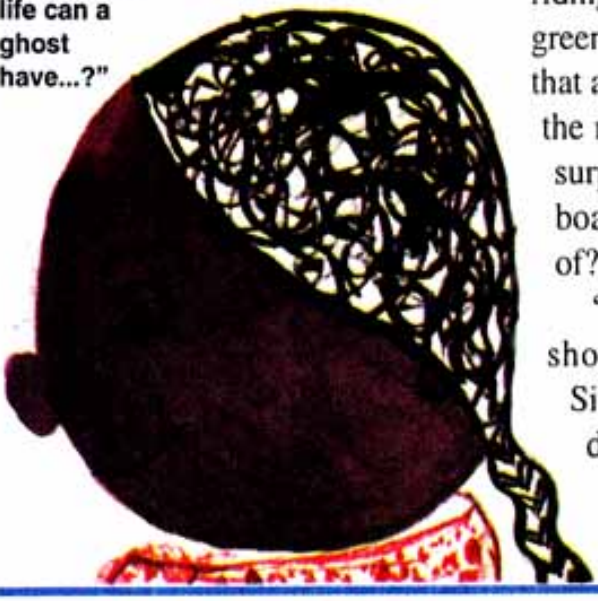
"She does have a sense of humour," smiled Sitamma and asked "So boys! Are we ready?"

"Aye! Aye! Madam," saluted the ghosts and the threesome headed to the ocean.

Soon after a lone girl with her long hair bobbing in the air was seen riding the waves on a peculiar pea green boat. If people were surprised that a little girl should dare to brave the rough sea alone, imagine their surprise if they found out what the boat and sail was fashioned out of?!!

"Isle of horses, here we come," shouted the boat, the sail and Sitamma and soon the threesome disappeared into the horizon.

(To be continued)



*** "What new life can a ghost have...?"**

Quiz Time

Are you an outrageous book worm? This quiz should be child's play for you!

1. Michael Bond wrote about a famous bear in a series of books for children. What was the bear named?

For Book Worms!

2. What was the name of author A.A. Milne's real-life son, whom he used in his Winnie the Pooh books?

3. In the "Harry Potter" novels, what species of owl is Hedwig?

4. What are the first names of the four children who enter Narnia through a wardrobe in "The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe"?

5. In which series of books does Mrs. Tiggie Winkle appear?

6. What was the name of the dog in Peter Pan?

7. Who was the character created by Roger Hargreaves for a series of books he wrote in the 1970s?

8. What is Charlie's Surname in "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory"?

9. Which children's book features Teedledum and Tweedledee?

10. What were the names of the "Famous Five"?

Compiled by : A. Balakumar, Age 12, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Madanapalle, A.P.

Answers : 1. Paddington Bear. 2. Christopher Robin. 3. Snowy Owl. 4. Susan, Peter, Edmund and Lucy. 5. "The Tales of Beatrix Potter". 6. Nana. 7. The Mr.Men. 8. Bucket. 9. "Alice In Wonderland". 10. Julian, Dick, Timmy, George and Anne

Laugh without Side Effects!

Mother : Why are you spreading sugar under your pillow?

Child : So that I may have sweet dreams.

Teacher : Why is your book so old?

Student : Because it is my Ancient History book ma'm.

Ram : Do you know why the young man cut the sides of the tablet the doctor gave him..?

Shyam : No, why..?

Ram : To avoid side effects!

- Kshama K.Shanbag, Std.IX, Canara Girls' H.S., Mangalore.

Mother : How do you like your new teacher?

Son : Not too much

Mother : Why..?

Son : She told me to sit in front for the present but did not give me any present.

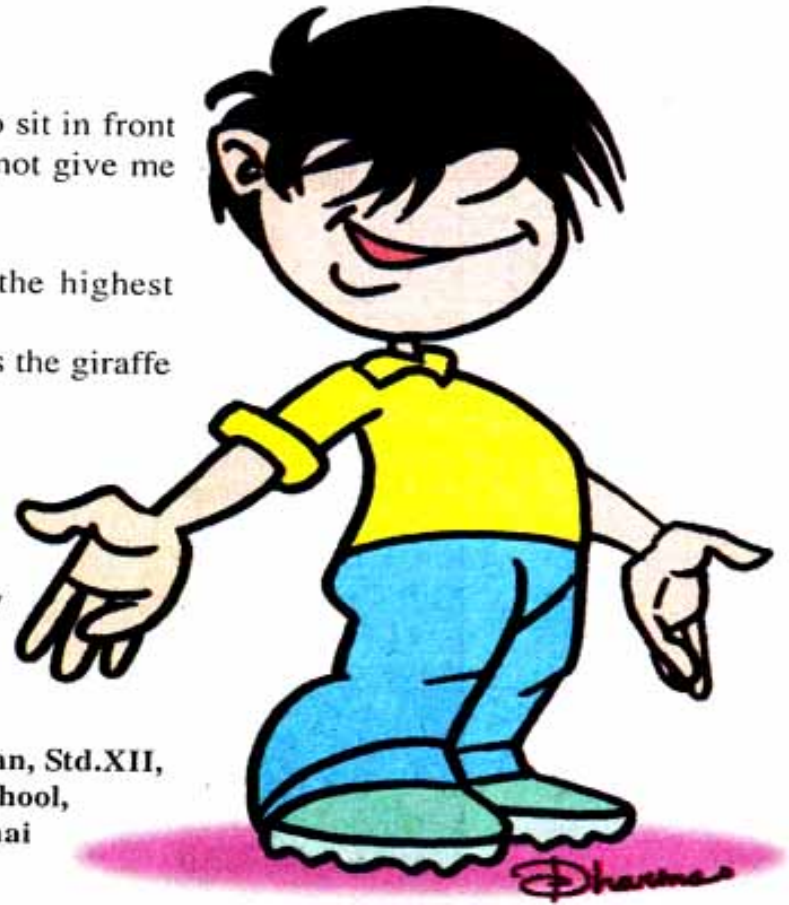
Teacher : What is the highest form of animal life?

Student : I think it is the giraffe ma'm.

Teacher : Can you tell me how fast light travels?

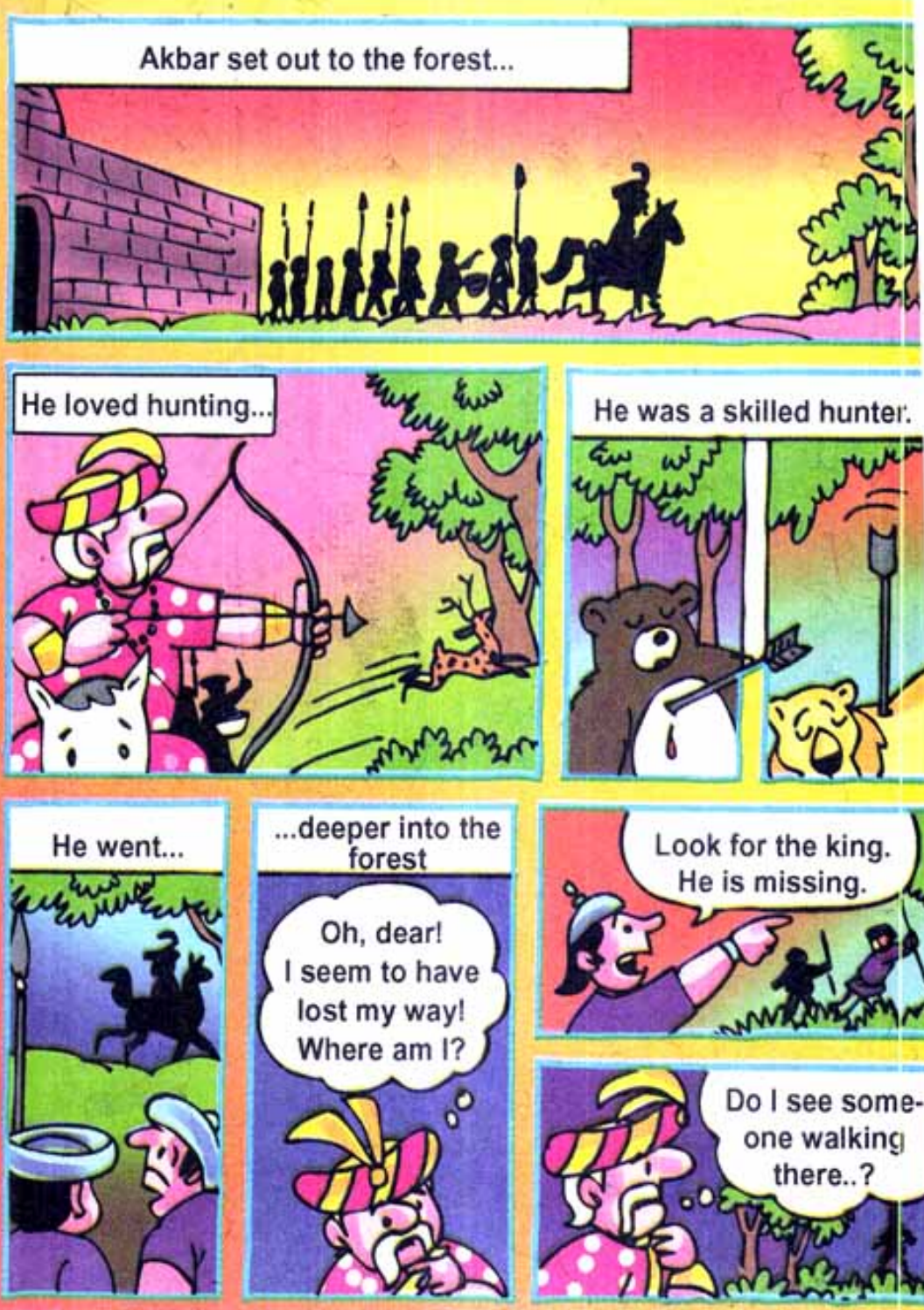
Arun : I don't know sir, but it always gets here too early in the morning.

- V.Mahadevan, Std.XII, P.S. Senior Secondary School, Chennai



Story: P. Thangavel, Std IX,
Govt. Students' Hostel,
Tharamangalam.
Pictures: Pillai

Mahesh Das



The stranger approached.
I am Akbar. Who are you.
Mahesh Das is my name!
Akbar sought help.
Will this path take me to Agra?
Ha! Ha! Ho! Ho!
Akbar was confused.
Why do you laugh young man?
Apologies your Highness! Being king wont make a difference.
What on earth do you mean?
This path wont take even the mighty Emperor to Agra.
Akbar was startled
But, why not..?
Simple, you have to 'take' the road; the road can't take you!
Well spoken! You shall be my minister.
A privilege your Highness
Mahesh Das came to be known as Birbal!

Budding Bards

My Poetry

Everyday I sit with a notebook,
And all around I look,
For an object to inspire me,
To write a piece of poetry.
It's hard to get a theme, you know,
For that I've to spend an hour or so,
And when finally my theme I get,
Into a poem the words I have to set
It's a headache to get everything
to rhyme
It takes up much of precious time
But, when at last my poem is done
I seem to have had so much fun!

- P.Sharon Pothigai, Std.IX,
Mahatma Matric. School,
Madurai

Our Eyes Heart and Lips

When the heart is sad,
The eyes are not glad!
And in the same way the lips react
With a topsy - turvy U on our face.

When the lips don't speak,
The eyes keep still;
And the heart does not skip
But the moment the heart leaps,
The eyes are no more still
And the lips hum to the heart.

When our heart is fine
Our eyes light up and shine
Our lips break into gentle smile
And the whole world seems divine.

Whether it is joy or woe,
Some reaction the eyes,
heart and lips show.

- Medhavi, Std.VIII, K.V.
Ballygunge, Kolkata

Back to School

Sixty days full of joy
Day and night did we enjoy;
To fairs, parks, and zoos we went
Till all of dad's money got, spent!

Eating chocolates and icecreams,
We became heroes and fairies in
our dreams,
Waking up at our will each day,
Filling hours with leisurely play.

Supporting favourite stars in
French open,
Having friendsly tussles with
cousins often;
Watching IPL cricket matches
Chiding players for missing catches!

Roaming in cycles around the city,
Playing and fighting with lovely kitty,
Learning how to fly a kite,
Gazing at the full moon all night.

- Yazhini Anbumani, Std.X,
Kalaimagal Kalvi Nilayam
Matriculation School, Erode

A Little Song

The Sun is shining,
Up in the sky.
The Bird is singing,
And so am I,
The trees are nodding,
Their heads like me,
The wind is blowing
The clouds along,
And I am singing,
A little song

- P.Prathyusha, Std.III,
Sishya School, Hosur

Experience

Last summer hols, I went to Singapore with my family. The whole country is only the size of a city and it was so very mind-boggling! We visited a lot of places of which I liked two spots very much. One was the Jurong Bird Park and the other was Snow City.

In the Bird Park, we saw all kinds of birds – colourful ones, birds that could even talk! They said 'hullo' to us! I was elated to see the penguins which can be seen only in the Antarctic. They were kept under controlled climatic conditions.

At the Snow City, we enjoyed throwing snow balls at each other and I caught a cold too!

- A.Aswin Vayiravan, Std.XI, TVSMHSS, Madurai

A PAINFUL PECK!

When I was studying for my annual exams, I heard the constant cawing of a baby crow. I tried to take my mind off it and concentrate on my studies, but in vain. I then chose to go out and shoo away the crow. Though I meant no harm, the parent

A Country

crow was very angry that I ventured near the baby and it swooped down from nowhere to peck at my head. I screamed and ran into the house and when I felt my head gingerly, it was wet with blood.

It was a painful experience!

- K.R.B. Rohini,
Age: 14, C.S.I.Ewart School,
Chennai

the Size of a City!

LOST AT THE BEACH!

My uncle took me and my cousin brother to Marina Beach and that April 30th turned out to be a black day for me! At the beach, I ran towards the pani puri stall, leaving the others behind. After a while, I wanted to get back to the family but could not retrace my way. For half an hour I tried and tried to get back, but in vain. I was not only afraid but also angry with myself for letting this happen. Just then, a man came up to me and asked what the problem was. I told him that I was lost. He asked me for a phone number at which my folks could be contacted. Though I gave him the number, he was unable to make contact over his mobile phone. He then took me to the police station nearby. A friendly police man helped me to get back to my family, by calling from the telephone at the

station. After the adventure, I was safe and sound but I appeal to Gokulam readers, never to go wandering on their own when out at a crowded place; and if you do get lost, like I did, take the help of the police station nearby to get back to your base.

- A.Kashyapan, Std.VIII,
R.C.P.E.M. School,
Khalchegaon, Maharashtra

A SPICY EFFORT!

This incident happened when I was in class four. Our class teacher Shyla Ma'm, used to handle our EVS (Environmental Sciences) classes as well. On one occasion, she asked us to take classes! She selected three of us, including me, for the job. We were asked to prepare to teach the lesson titled 'Spicy Riddles'. We were assigned this on a Friday and had the week end to prepare. The lesson was in the form of riddles, for each of which the answer was the name of a spice. My parents helped me to identify the spices and packed them for me to display at school. Turmeric, chilly powder, cummin seeds, mustard seeds, fennel, cloves and pepper were packed in transparent polythene packs and small containers. Using these as material, I taught my class, showing the students what each spice looked like. They were allowed to touch, feel and smell the spices and I also told them the equivalent names of each spice in Malayalam and Hindi. Though I was nervous in the beginning, I managed to conduct and complete the lesson with confidence. I must say, reading Gokulam regularly helped me conduct this exercise well. Shyla Ma'm clapped me on the back and told me that I took class better than her! She also asked me to take classes for students from other sections (IV A and IV C). All the students clapped after I had finished and M'am gave me a chocolate and a kiss on my forehead. My heart leapt with joy.

- Rakshantha, Std.V,
K.V., Panangode,
Trivandrum

Absent-minded Squirrels!

- The chance of being born on a leap day is about 684 in a million or 1 in 1461!
- Millions of trees are accidentally planted by squirrels that bury nuts and forget where they hid them!
- There are 6,000 species of reptiles and 73,000 kinds of spiders. For each person, there are 200 million insects!
- Hippos kill more people than any other animals in the world.
- Approximately two thirds of a person's body weight is water. Blood is 92 per cent water. Brain is 75 per cent water. Muscles are 75 per cent water!

(source: internet)

- N.Harish Pranav, Std.IX, Glaze Brook Matriculation School, Salem

Fact Zone

Here are the names of different specialty studies:

Odontology – Study of teeth

Trichology – Study of hair

Osteology – Study of bones

Opthalmology – Study of eyes

Craniology – Study of the skull region

Dermatology – Study of skin

Physiology – Study of animals and plants

Ornithology – Study of birds

Orology – Study of Mountains

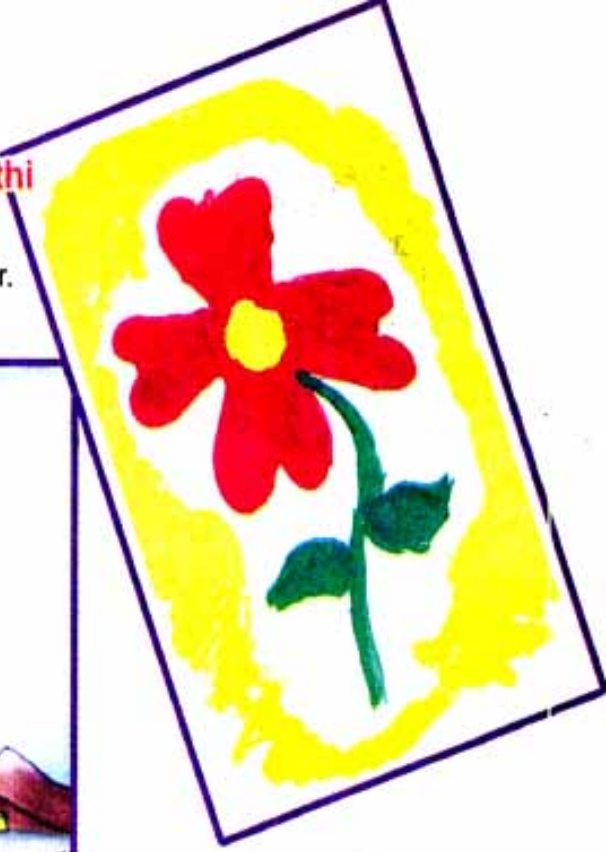
Meterology – Study of weather and climate.

- A.V. Sri Vaishnavi, Std.IV, The Hyderabad Public School, Hyderabad

G.Padmavathi

Std. IV - B,

Thiruvanmiyur.



J.Kalpesh

Std. V , Dr.G.S.Kalyanasundaram

Memorial School,

Kumbakonam.

P.Dhivya Pooja

Std. II , Chettinad Vidya Mandir,

Chettipalayam.

R.Ananya

U.K.G , Shri Vidya Mandir

Education Society, Bengalooru.

Junior Gallery

Riya Bhandari
Std. III , Sishya School,
Hosur.

K.J.Sangeetha Sri
Std. IV , Chettinad Vidya Mandir,
Chettipalayam.

Naresh Rengaswamy
Std. V , M.CT.M School,
Chennai.

A Smile Gone Forever!

Road accidents have become very common in our country now-a-days. Most of us have taken them for granted. Everyday we read in the newspapers about gruesome accidents, but they don't affect us too much.

I too did not fret over news of accidents until I lost one of my close friends AKRAM. Akram died in a road accident on 8th October 2008.

His death was a sudden shock to us. All over India, people were in a jubiliant mood, celebrating Navratri festival, but my friends and I were mourning the death of dear Akram.

He was a very smart looking, innocent boy and my close friend from Class IV, when I joined new in our school. He was always smiling, full of energy and enjoying life. With his bright and positive attitude, he had won the hearts of many students as well as teachers. His sudden demise affected each one of us so deeply and made us ponder over the uncaring attitude of vehicle drivers, road users, the citizens and the police.

Having lost a dear friend in a road accident, I feel that everyone should be very careful and beware of faulty drivers and road-users who break rules. We should never take our own life for granted.

We are the ultimate hope of our parents, their happiness lies in our well-being. We have to take care of ourselves to take better care of our parents. So, never take a risk while using the road, whether you are driving or walking, or using a hired vehicle.

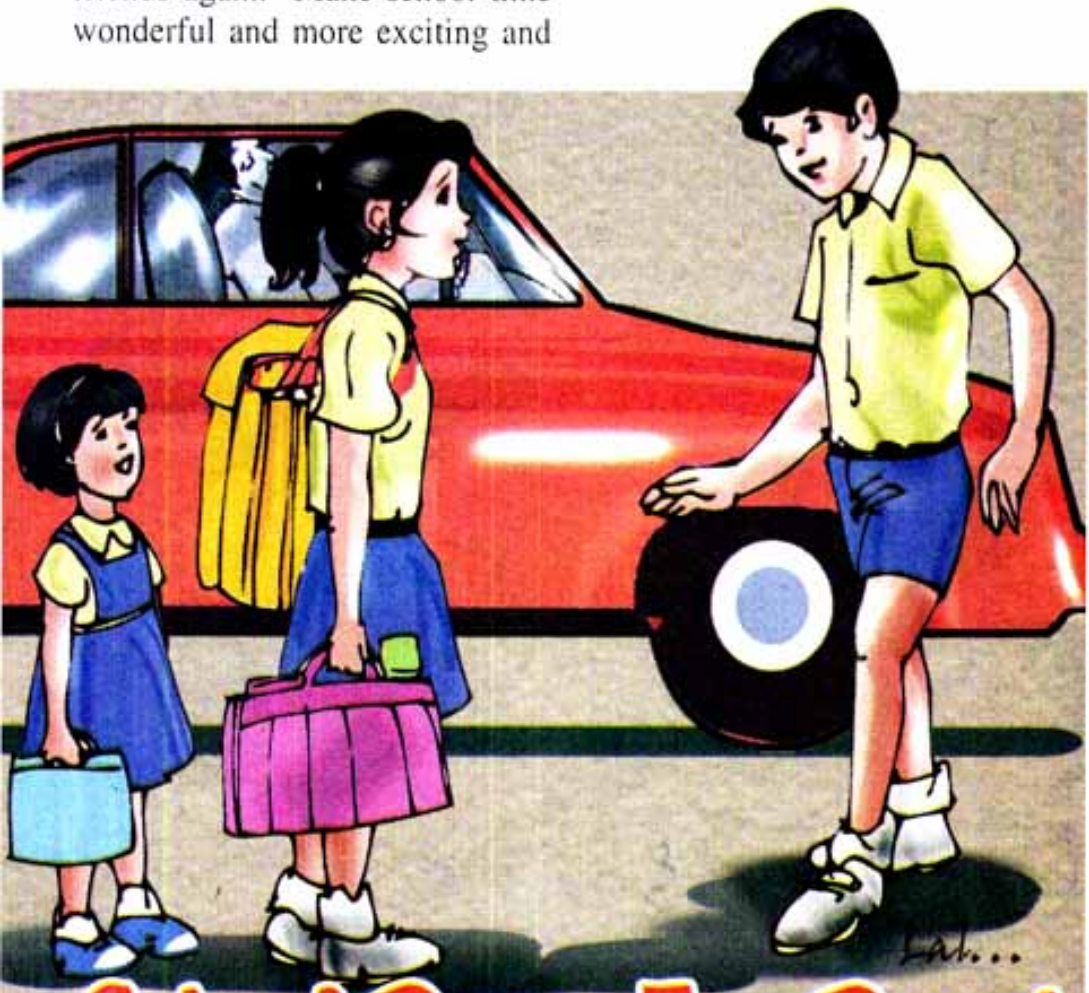
- Neha Jha, Std.XI,
Rama Devi Women's College,
Bhubaneshwar, Orissa

Sandhya Sridhar

So you think school is getting back to routine, back to text books and back to plenty of homework? If you think smart and think positive, it needn't be so. School-reopening is a great time, an exciting time, since not only do you get to go to a bigger class, but you get to meet your friends again. Make school time wonderful and more exciting and here are some ideas to help you make it so:

CAR POOL

Well, here is a wonderful way to begin friendships. Never mind if the children who go to your school are in varied classes. Make a



School Days: Fun Days!

If you think smart and think positive, it won't be back to boring routine.

list of say four children you would like to get to know better – and rope them into a car pool. Car pools are not only great fun, but you make great friends too. Car pools are eco-friendly (you save on fuel) and help you learn to share, to adjust to different kinds of people.

POT-LUCK LUNCHES

If you thought car pools are fun, make lunch groups where you can share food in a planned way. We all love tasting food from each others' homes and you will need a little help from parents to do this. Put up lunch menus for your lunch group (taking into account what your parent can cook up in the mornings as well) - so that you get to eat and share lunch with your friends. For example, one sample menu is given below:

Lunch menu Monday (for five people)

Swetha – Alu paratha(5 nos)

Ramu – Choley

Tina – vegetable biriyani

Meena – Onion raita

Ashu – paper plates + groundnut chikki

Do you get what I mean now? You have a nice exciting menu planned and the dishes well-distributed so no one parent gets to make too much in the morning. Now this is difficult to co-ordinate so you can do this once or twice a week, depending on your convenience.

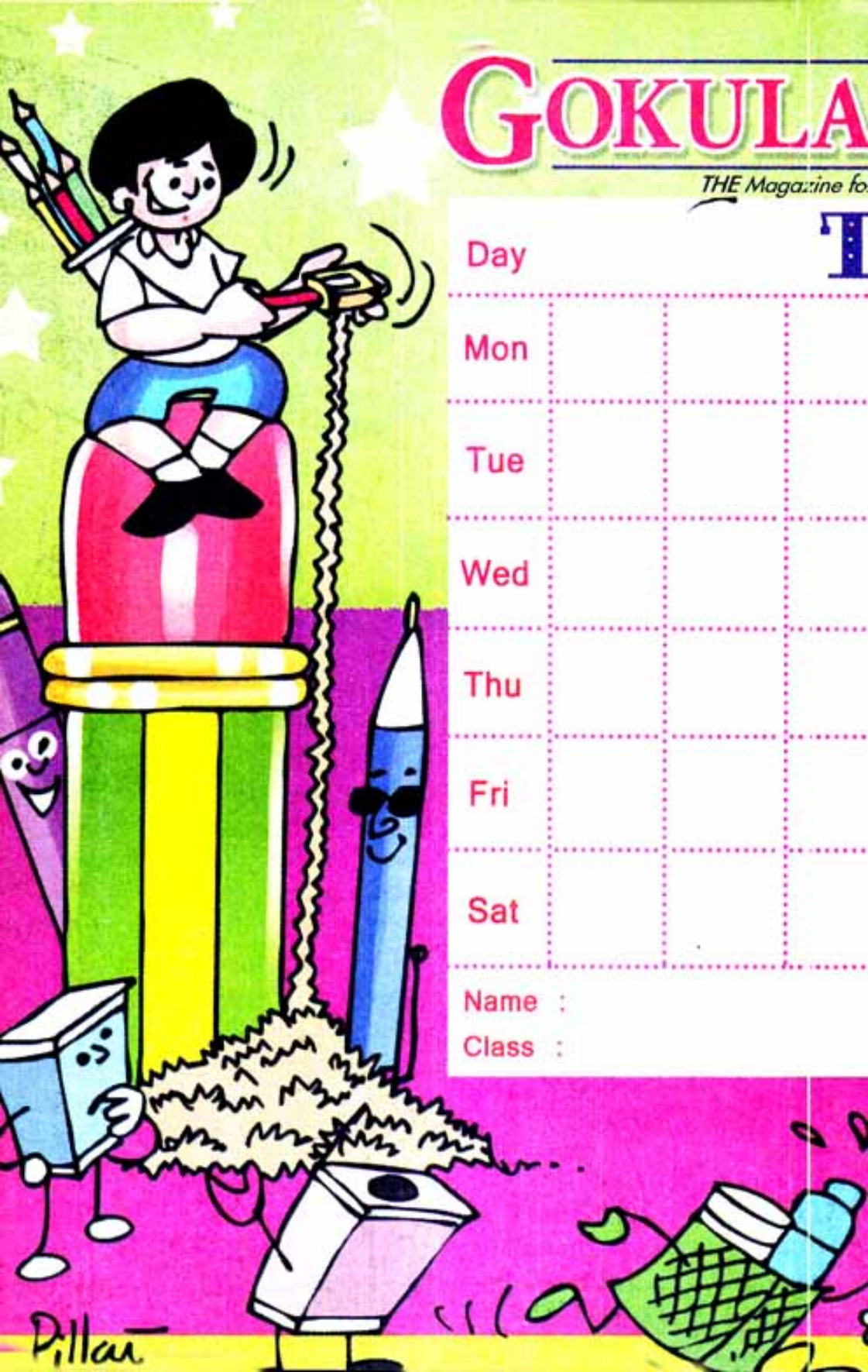
HOMEWORK GROUPS

Well, this is something you guys do anyways – get together to play. Now extend this togetherness with responsibility – form homework groups where you first get-together before play to finish off important homework or study, *then* go out to play. This is certainly a move that will make parents proud and homework more fun. But you have to be serious about this to make it work.

PASS-WORD PLEASE!

Now this idea is not new, but hey, why not do it because this is fun! Your group in school can form a club or a society where you can plan activities for free months (when there are no exams); which will have an impact on the school or the community you live in. Plan neighbourhood cleaning sessions; collecting one issue of old newspapers from each household to sell, so you can contribute to charity – and more! There is no dearth of ideas of what you can do for this one! Have weekly or fortnightly meetings, passwords and snacks... We all know how exciting that can be, don't we?

Enjoy your return to school!


GOKULA
THE Magazine fo
T
Day
Mon
Tue
Wed
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Fri
Sat
Name :
Class :
Pillai

M

ildren

me Table

	Lunch Break					

School :

Join

Name : **S. Nagarajan**
Age : 16 years
Address : 116, Kalaivaanar Street, Ayyampalayam, Kavindappadi, Erode Dt.
Hobbies : Reading books, drawing, watching TV and collecting stamps.

Name : **M.Madhumitha Pillai**
Age : 9 years
Address : Santhini Nikethan, Thazham (Middle), Chathanoor P.O., Kollam, Kerala.
Hobbies : Reading, singing, watching TV, drawing, listening to music.

Name : **V.Ramadevi Rao**
Age : 13 years
Address : 'Sridevi Prasad', Kappattu, Ambalpady, Udupi.
Hobbies : Reading, writing, collecting pictures, playing with friends and cycling.

Name : **K.Vaishnavi**
Age : 17 years
Address : Mayur Vihar, Phase II, 41 E A2, New Delhi – 96.
Hobbies : Reading Gokulam and other books, glass painting, drawing.

Name : **Subbham Jyoti Dash**
Age : 9 years

Address : VR -1, Unit VI, Bhubaneshwar, Orissa

Hobbies : Cycling, playing chess, playing guitar, reading adventurous books and listening to music.

Name : **K.P.Nishank**

Age : 14 years

Address : No.212, 9th main, 1st stage, Arekere Mico Layout, BG Road, Bengalooru.

Hobbies : Making friends, chatting and surfing on the net, playing basket ball, swimming, reading adventure stories, listening to music.

Name : **S.B.Vishal**

Age : 14 years

Address : 4094, Chalukya House, Sainik School, Bijapur.

Hobbies : Playing hockey and football, listening to music, reading novels, participating in adventurous activities and surfing the net.

Name : **S.Rakshaa Vigneshwari**

Age : 11 years

Address : 243/244, Ashtalakshmi Nagar, V Street, II Extn, Varadarajapuram, Mudichur, Chennai – 48.

Hobbies : Watching TV, playing with friends, reading, collecting coins, making posters for my room, drawing, cycling, dancing and listening to music.

the Club!

Name : **V.Manjari**

Age : 14 years

Address : 4369, Std IX, U-5 House, Sainik School, Korukonda, Vijayanagaram Dt.

Hobbies : Reading magazines, playing shuttle, foot ball, basket ball, swimming, painting, collecting stamps, dancing, singing, taking photos of nature, watching TV and listening to music.

"Daddy!" called eight year old Natasha. "Is there really someone called God in this world?"

"Of course, my dear," answered Mr. Simpson, with a rather bewildered look.

"What's the proof you can give me?" came Natasha's defiant question. "Yes, Daddy, I want proof that there is a God. You know, the same way that the judge at a court asks for and examines proof.."

Mr. Simpson just smiled at his demanding daughter and patted her on the head. "Good night," he said and walked towards his bedroom. "But, Daddy," protested Natasha. Mr. Simpson was already gone. She pouted her lips and marched grumpily to bed.

"Wake up, Natasha," said Mr. Simpson.

"Daddy, let me sleep for just five more minutes, please" said Natasha, as her eye lids dropped down with sleep.

"Come on, out of bed, now, you can go back to sleep later," said Mr. Simpson, as he gently helped his daughter to sit up. "I want you to come with me and look at some-

thing."

"What is it Daddy?" mumbled Natasha, sleepily.

"Come out with me, and I will show you." Mr. Simpson was already moving towards the garden door.

Natasha obediently followed him, rubbing her sleepy eyes, and wondering what he wanted to show her so early in the morning.

Mr. Simpson stepped out into the garden and pointed upwards. "Just look at the sky, Natasha," he said. And as Natasha made an effort to open her sleepy eyes wide, she saw the most beautiful sight ahead of her. The sun was just above the horizon. It's orangish light was slowly spreading out and merging with the fast fading darkness of the night sky. The deep silence all around was broken only by the chirping of an early bird, which enhanced the richness of the beautiful sight.

GIVE ME PROOF!

Natasha found herself wide awake suddenly. "Now tell me my child," said Mr. Simpson. "Do you really think that any one other than God can make this happen?"

Natasha was silent.

"God is standing right here," said Mr. Simpson. He is all around us and is a part of everything in this world. At night we look at the stars and admire the beauty of the moon. But, when the sun rises and the moon is no longer visible, we still continue to believe in it's existence, don't we? The Truth is, God is in so many forms that it is hard for us to point at any single person or object to prove His existence."

"Yes Daddy."

"Now, do you believe in God, young lady?" he asked her.

She just smiled at him and said, "Oh Daddy! I've always believed in God. I mean, who doesn't believe that God exists.."

The birds seemed to chirp in hearty agreement.

- Chandhnee K. Iyer,
Std.VIII, Chinmaya Vidhyalaya,
Trichy.

Hi, I am Tobreez and I am a great fan of Gokulam. The first time I bought this magazine, I could not believe my eyes. Such a good book for Rs.10! It is unique that the writing is contributed by children from all over India. I heard that the contributor who collects the most number of participation certificates, will get a prize. From which date does this competition start?

- Tobreez Ahmed, Std.VII, Padua Primary School, Mangalore

(Dear Tobreez, and other readers, the period for collecting the participation certificates is from July issue every year to the June issue of the subsequent year. Please read the announcements that appear in Gokulam carefully. See page 69 this issue. - editor)

I am a new reader and my view was published in the viewpoint column in the April issue. Though I got a free copy of Gokulam, I am yet to receive my prize money and certificate.

- B.V.Induja, Std.IX, Shrishti M.H.S.S., Vellore; K.Vaishnavi, Std.VI, Gitanjali School, Hyderabad

I am yet to receive my remunera-

The Best Gift

tion for the view published in the March issue of Gokulam

- Ammar Ali Kolkar, Std.VII, Touheed English Medium School, Gangolli

(Dear readers, the prize money and participation certificates will reach you within a month of your receiving the free copy. If you do not receive them even after a month, you may please email to: gokulam@kalkiweekly.com. *Greetings! – editor)*

I am a regular reader and I enjoyed the short story special issue. The layouts are very good. I request you to include articles regarding discoveries and inventions and also sports highlights.

- M.Sathyaroopa, Std.VII, Kalaivani Kalvi Nilayam Matric School, Thingalur, Erode District

Possible!

Gokulam is not only great entertainment and fun but also a source of useful information which is essential for growing children. It is beautifully set in a manner in which everyone can enjoy reading its awesome pages. Please publish

Letter Box

a poster of the cartoon series Ben Ten – Alien Force.

- Praniht.B, Std.VIII, K.V., Mysore

I got introduced to Gokulam on my birthday and have become its ardent fan since. I thank my sister for giving me the best gift possible. I also feel proud of Gokulam because it is a meeting place for children like us.

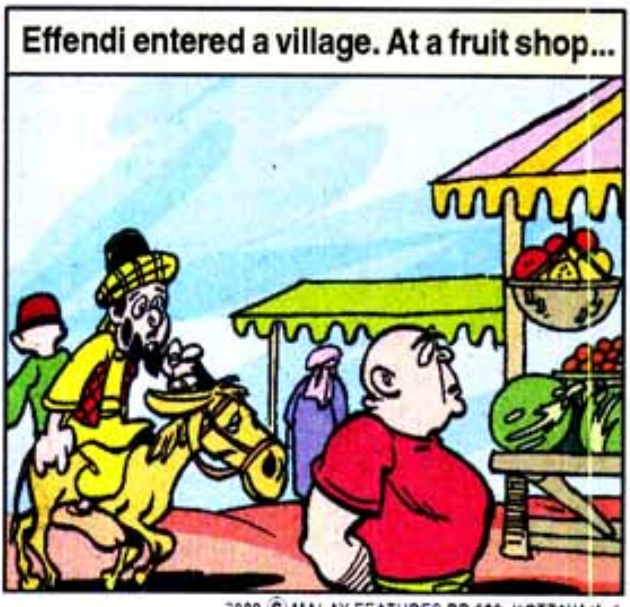
- S.S.M.Harish, Std.VII, Vedavalli Vidyalaya, Ranipet

I was happy that my brother's drawing was published in the February issue of Gokulam. Both of us are great fans of the magazine. We regard Gokulam as the book that is always in the 'favourites list' of children. Gokulam also helped me a lot during my final exams last year.

- S.Manikandan, Std.XI, St.John's MHSS, Chennai

EFFENDI AND THE RUDE WRESTLER

SCRIPT : MOHAN C.
DRAWING : AJ



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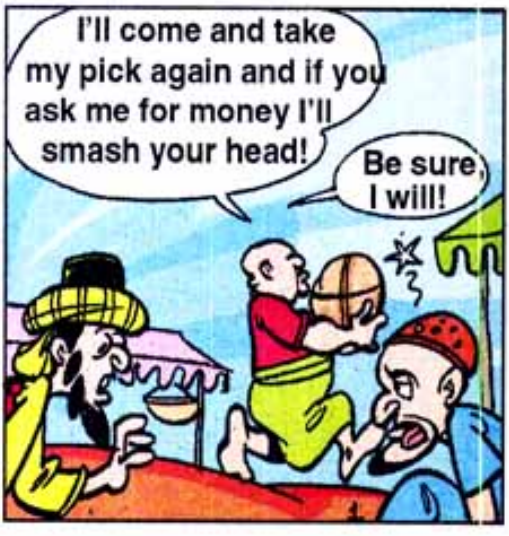

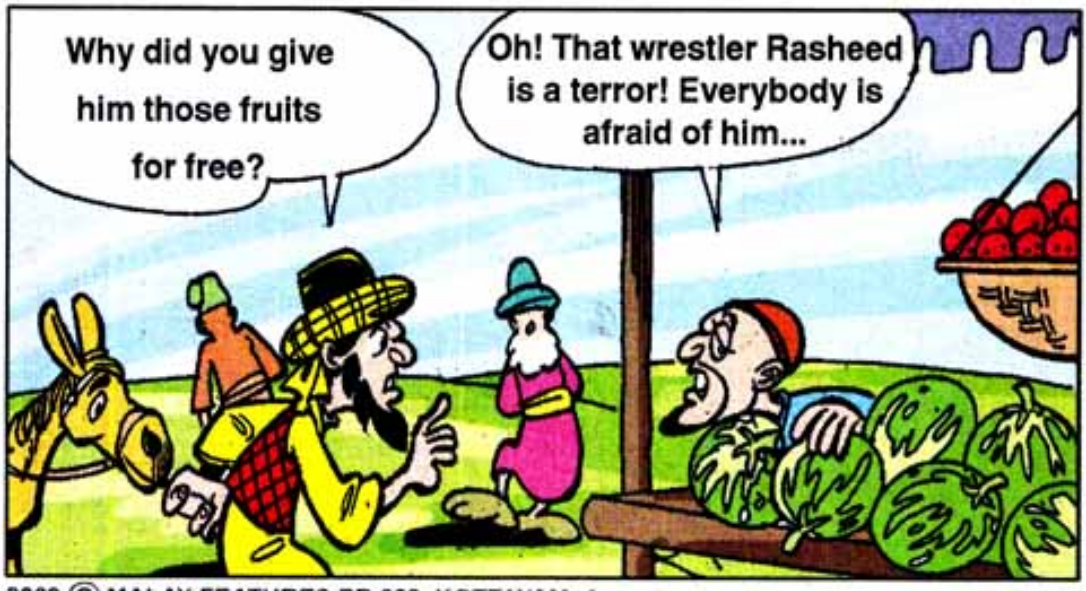

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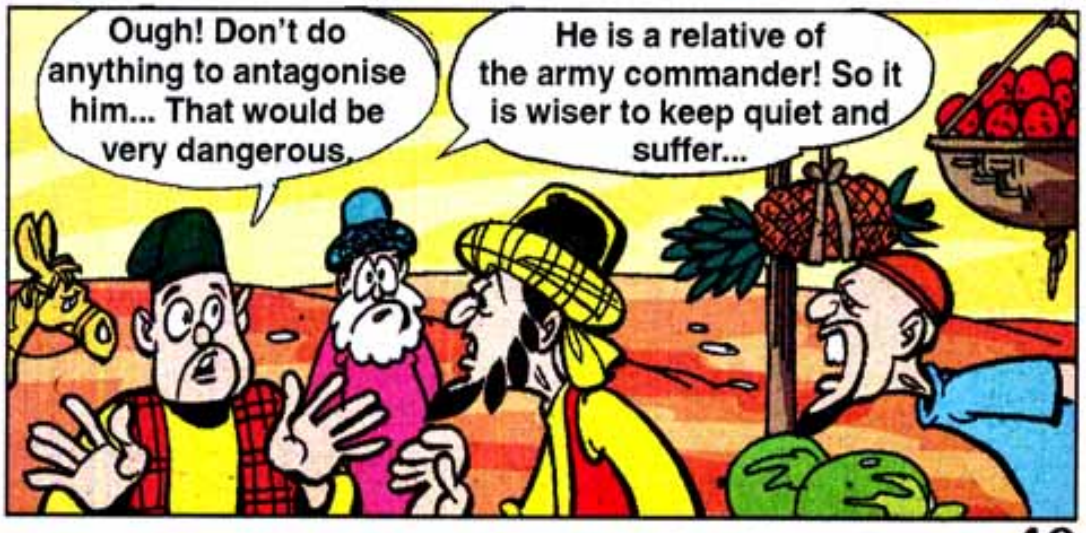


Effendi went directly to the house of the judge-

Donkey! My dear Donkey! I'm going to sell it for money! Yes I'm going to sell it...

Eh?

Who is that?

2009 © MALAY FEATURES PB 608, KOTTAYAM -1

Who is singing outside...? Call the beggar in

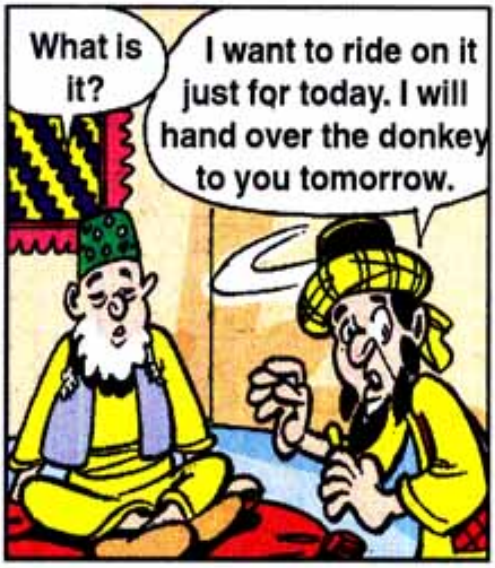
Who are you? Why are you singing?

Kazi, I come from a distant place...

Since I've run out of money, I wish to sell my donkey...

I will buy it from you

Thank you sir, but there is a condition...



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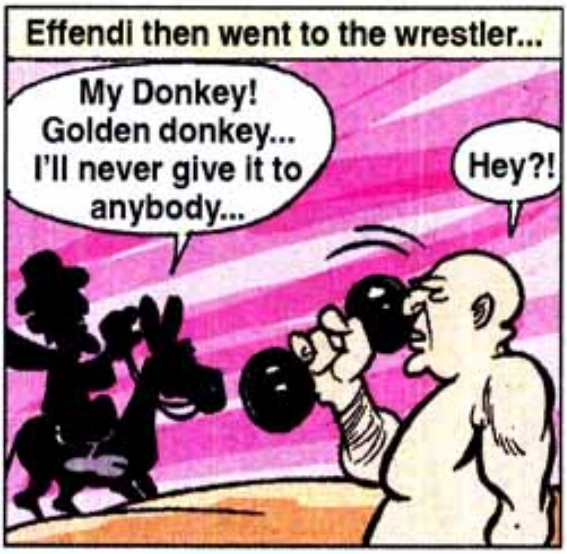
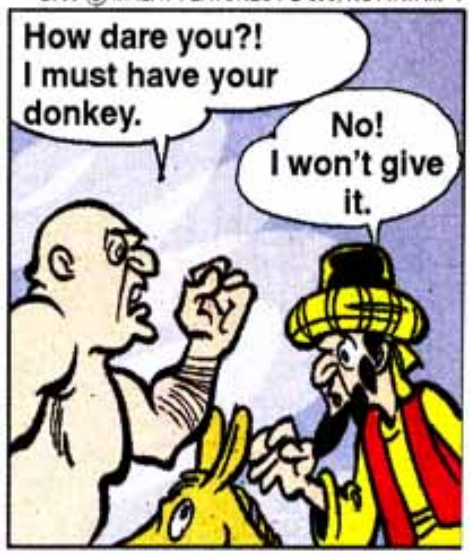




The donkey was snatched away by that wrestler Rasheed your Honour.
What? Soldiers! Arrest him and bring him to me!
The Soldiers brought the wrestler to the Kazi.
Why did you snatch my donkey?
No Sir! I've not snatched away your donkey...
The donkey was purchased by me!
Oh! I thought it was his donkey...
I see! So you do snatch away people's belongings, eh? Commander!
Shut him up in jail!
2009 © MALAY FEATURES PB 608, KOTTAYAM -1
Sir! Please return my donkey and take your money back!
No, No! I'm going to give you an additional hundred coins for having done a good deed.
Later...
My intention was only to draw his attention towards Rasheed's misdeeds; but I am a rich man!

Ha... Ha...

"Why are you writing with your toes?

"Because the teacher said that my reports should have foot notes."

- V.Tilak Raj Kumar, Std.X, Sri Sarada Bala Mandir Boys School, Salem

"Last week I went to hunt a tiger in the forest.."

"Oh! What happened, then?"

"The forest officer drove me out."

Teacher : Which is nearer to our school – the airport or the railway station?

Student : The airport ma'm.

Teacher : Why do you say so..?

Student : Because we can see the aeroplanes fly but we do not see the trains at all.

- S.Dhivija, Std.X, S.B.O.A.M.H.S.S, Chennai

Ram : I have a ten foot snake in this box.

Shyam : Come on! I know that snakes do not have feet

- Mohd.Abdul Sami, Std.VI, Hind Public HSS, Kelabadi, (Durg)

Teacher : Is 'pants' singular or plural?

Student : It is singular at the top and plural at the bottom, sir.

- Addanki Sai Kashyap, Std.IX, St.Joseph's Public School, Hyderabad

Dear Grandma,

Our teacher scolds us even when we have not done anything wrong. This irritates us. How can we put an end to this?

- B.Atitya, Chennai

Dear Atitya,

It would be difficult for anyone to believe that a teacher would scold the students even when they behave well. You must discuss and analyse the situation with your classmates. There may be something which irritates your teacher but which is quite normal from your point of view. If so, it is better you tow the teacher's line. After all, the class teacher is the boss. However, it is also possible that your teacher is upset over something other than the students' behaviour, but, being unable to fight back, is venting his (or her) ire on the students. If this be so, it is indeed a sad situation, about which you need to talk to your parents. They can then take up the matter at the next P.T.A. meeting in a polite manner.

Scolding

★ ★ ★

I am ten years old. My mother says I'm over-weight. I don't have time for exercise. What can I do to reduce my weight?

- Alekhya M.Maule, Gulbarga

Dear Alekhya,

Have a medical check-up done. If it is just obesity and there is no other complication, consult a dietician. He or she will chalk out a proper diet for you, which will satisfy your hunger while controlling the calories intake. The diet will also

take care of the minimum nourishment your body requires everyday. Every person whether fat or thin, needs regular exercise to keep fit.

★★★

My elder sister is very popular at school, but I'm not. Everybody talks about me only as so and so's sister! My sister has completed her studies and will be leaving school. Now I feel completely lost! What shall I do?

- Sweta Jha, Bhubaneswar

Dear Sweta,

Now is your chance to come out of the shadow of your sister. Henceforth you will be recognized for your own talents and not because you are so and so's sister. Grab this opportunity, Show your skills, in studies,

sports or artistic activities. It will take some time and there will be set backs too. Don't lose heart. Efforts never fail. Good luck!

★★★

I've been thumb-sucking from my child-hood. Now, I'm nine years old. How can I get rid of this habit? My mom tried a lot of tricks which failed!

- M.K.Nivetha, Mumbai

Dear Nivetha,

Thumb-sucking is natural for babies. It pacifies them and gives them a sense of comfort and security. But the habit is given up as the child grows and is able to find emotional comfort and security in other ways like talking to parents and experiencing their love and affection. However, in rare cases like yours it becomes an obsession. Fortunately you have already begun to dislike the habit and want to overcome it. You will suc-

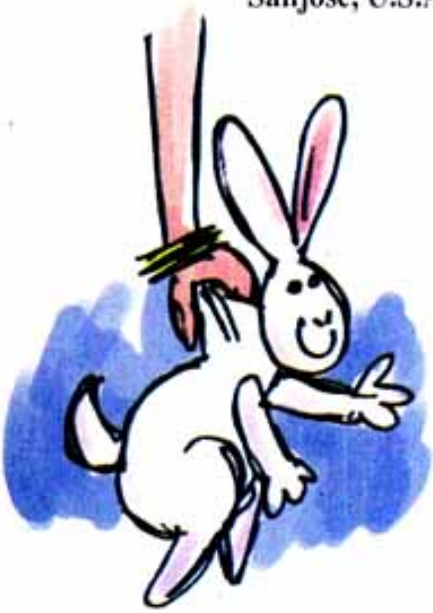
for Nothing!

ceed, provided you are determined. Tell yourself that you have the will power. Whenever you feel the urge, divert your mind to some activity wich needs the use of your hands. Bandage your thumb with a clean piece of cloth when you go to bed.

★★★

In an old Gokulam (April 2004) you have said that rabbits are always lifted by their ears and they feel comfortable this way. However, I have recently found that rabbits should be picked up by the loose skin on their necks, like puppies or kitten.

- Sathya Susheela Baskaran, Sanjose, U.S.A.



Dear Sathya,

Thankyou for correcting me. I must have been carried away by many pictures I've seen of magicians pulling rabbits out of their hats! I request Gokulam readers to please

note what Sathya has said.

★★★

When my friends do something wrong I don't go along with them. Instead, I separate myself from them. Because of this, my friends have started avoiding me, altogether and I feel lonely. Please tell me what I should do?

- Mrudul Ramesh, Ganjam

Dear Mrudul,

I am proud of you. Come what may, you should not join hands with your friends in their wrongful activities. At the same time you must let them know that you have nothing against them personally but your objection is only towards their wrong doings. If they persist in avoiding you, don't worry, you'll be soon able to cultivate new friends who, by their behaviour, will earn your appreciation in addition to friendship.

Love,
Grandmaworm

Attention

Most of you have been sending us jokes, facts and snippets gathered from the internet or G.K. books. Do show us how original you can be. Write your thoughts and ideas on various issues. Report funny happenings at school or home. Do make sure that you put down your name, age, class, school name and residential address individually on each and every contribution that you send to Gokulam.

★ The best ones will be published and a participation certificate will be sent to the contributor.

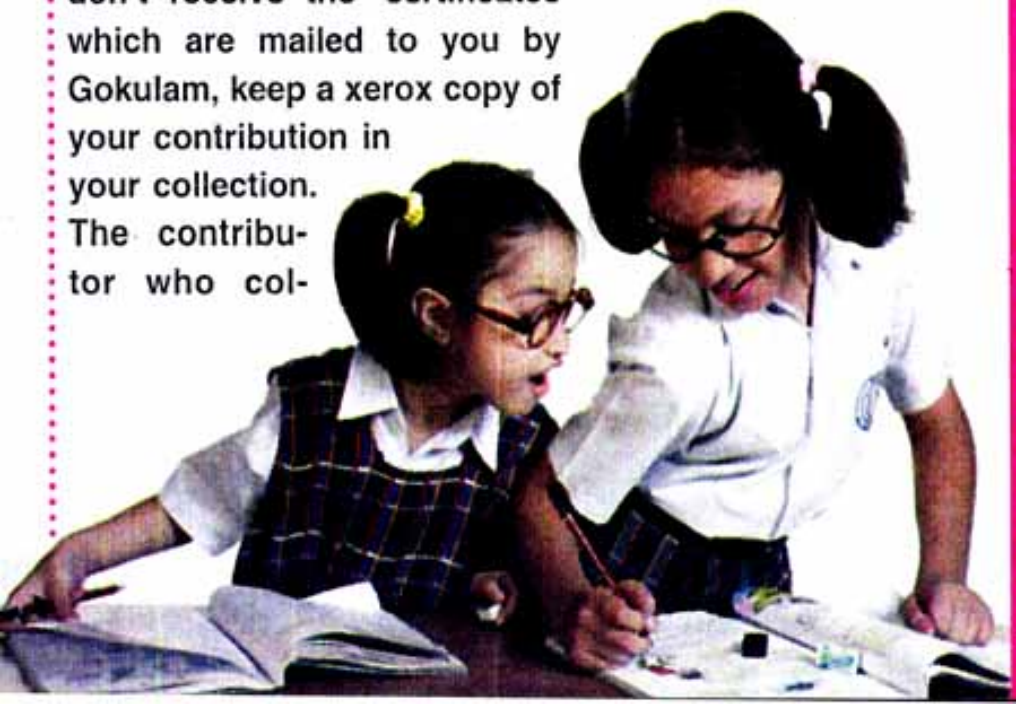
★ Please preserve your participation certificates. **In case you don't receive the certificates which are mailed to you by Gokulam, keep a xerox copy of your contribution in your collection. The contributor who collects the most number of certificates will win a prize.**

★ All competition entries should reach us before the last date mentioned.

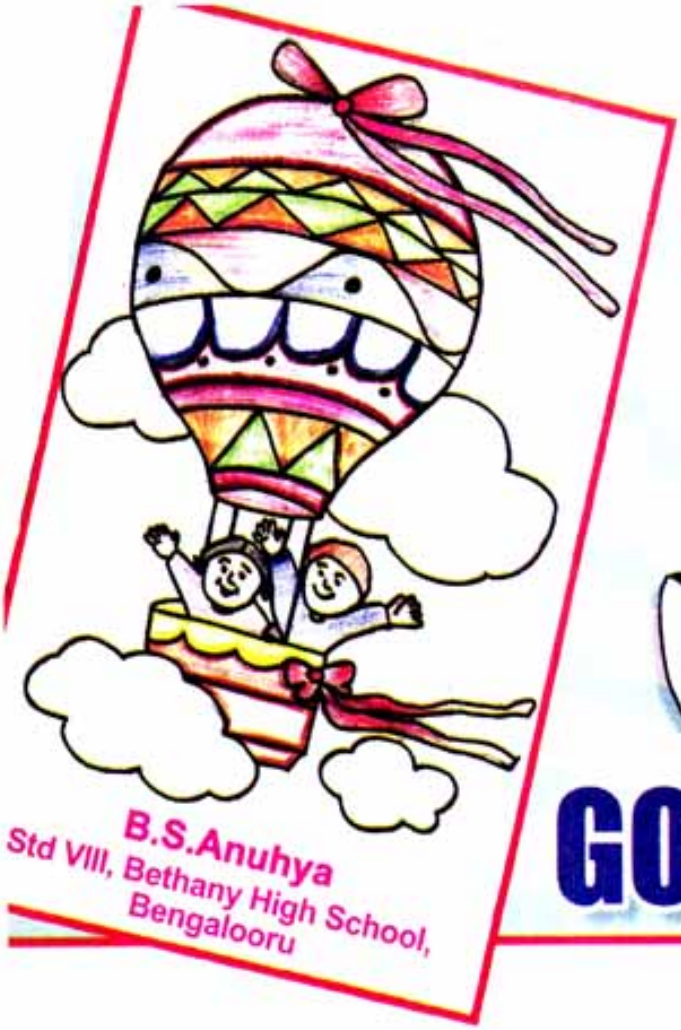
★ Entries to Birthday Bash column should reach us along with the appropriate message and photographs **two months before the birthday.**

★ Do be original in your contributions and creations. If you have based your writing on a source, be sure to acknowledge it and name it and...

NEVER EVER COPY!



ALL GOKULAM READERS AND CONTRIBUTORS...

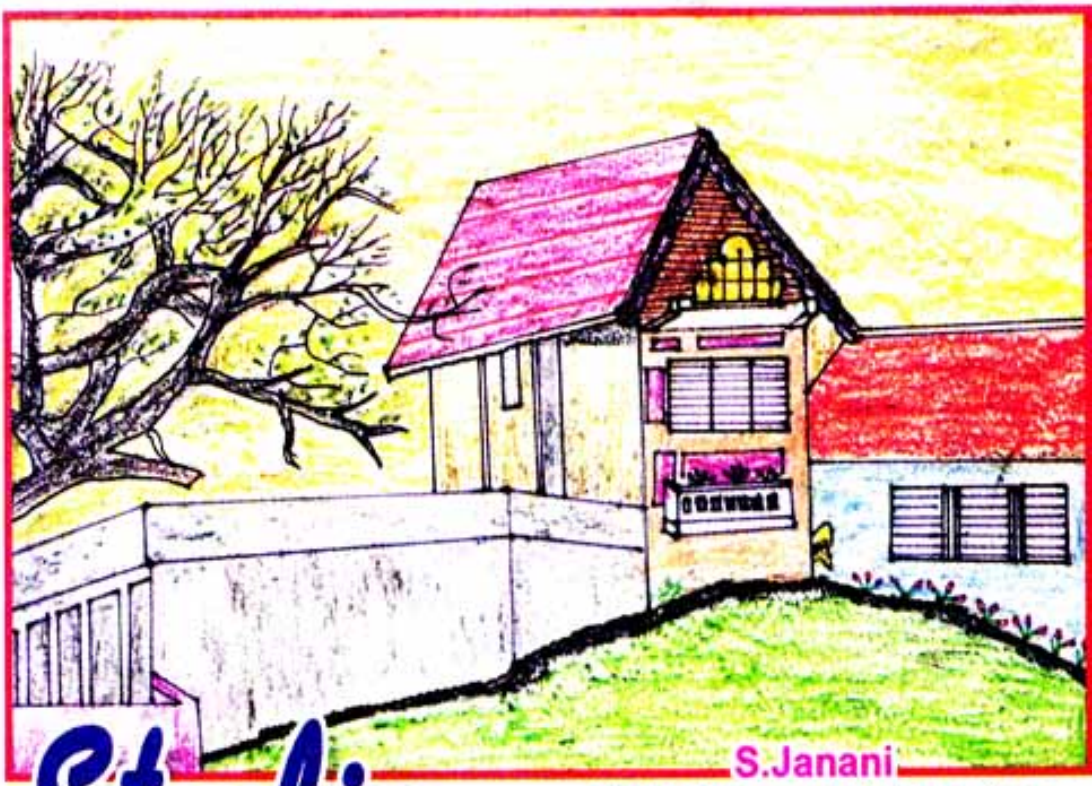


B.S.Anuhya
Std VIII, Bethany High School,
Bengalooru

R.Ranjith Kumar
Std VIII,
NAG Matriculation School,
Sumaithangi

GOKULAM

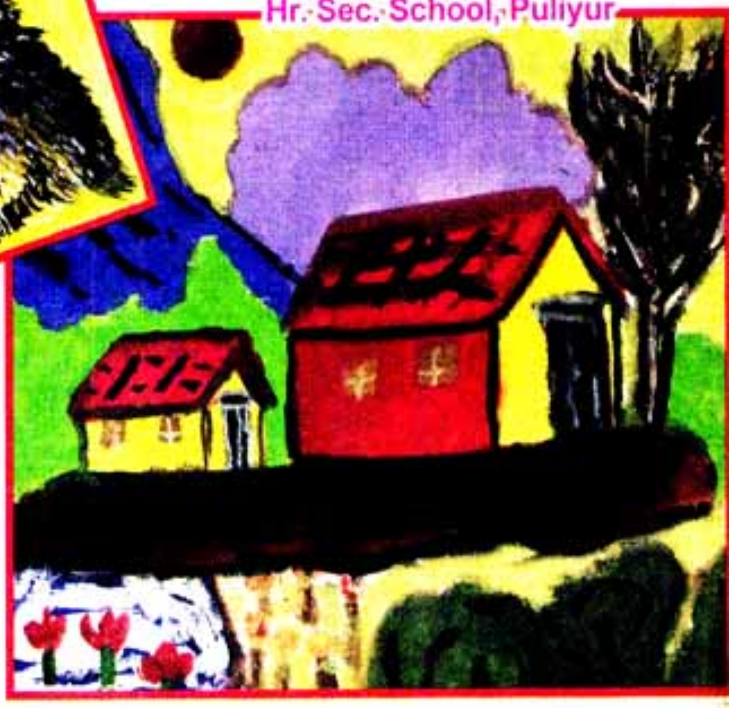
M.Raj Karthi
Std VIII, Rajah Muthiah Matriculation
Hr.Sec.School,
Chettipalayam.



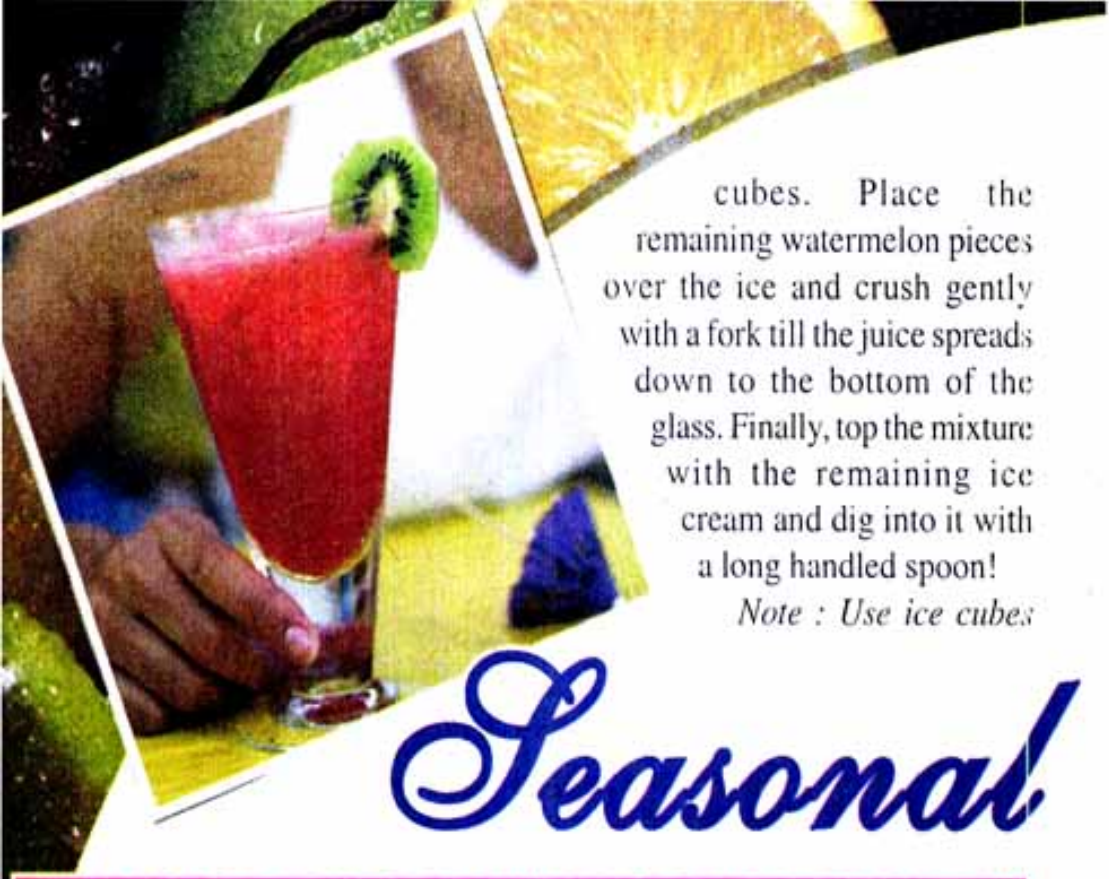
Studio

S.Janani
Std IX, Velammal Matriculation
Hr. Sec. School, Thiruppuvanam

N.Prabhakaran
Std VI, Chettinad Rajah Muthiah Matric.
Hr. Sec. School, Puliyur



Kr.Hibu Tamo
Std VIII, V.K.V. Sher,
ArunachalPradesh.



Seasonal

Try out these recipes which use mainly seasonal fruits and stay cool through the summer!

WATERMELON WONDER

You need :

Watermelon cut into small pieces – 10 to 15

Ice cubes – 3 or 4

Vanilla or strawberry ice cream – one medium sized cupful

Method :

Take a tall glass tumbler and place two spoons of ice cream in it. Over this, place half of the watermelon pieces. Top this mixture with two ice cubes. Place the remaining watermelon pieces over the ice and crush gently with a fork till the juice spreads down to the bottom of the glass. Finally, top the mixture with the remaining ice cream and dig into it with a long handled spoon!

Note : Use ice cubes sparingly or the punch will turn watery. Remember to keep the ice cream in the freezer till you are done with the rest of the work and whip it out only at the end.

- J.B.Lokesh.
Std.IX.
S.B.O.A. School and Junior College, Chennai

MANGO ICE CREAM

You need :

Fresh mangoes -2

Sugar – 100grams
Milk – 200ml

Method :

Boil milk, add the sugar and stir continuously till it thickens. Leave to cool. Peel and cut mangoes into small pieces. Blend the mango and the thickened, cooled milk in a blender. Pour the thick mix

Sensations!

into ice cream trays and freeze for a minimum of six hours.

- N.R.Akshaya Reddy,
Std.VII, Good Shepherd,
Chennai

MANGO-MILK TOFFEE

You need :

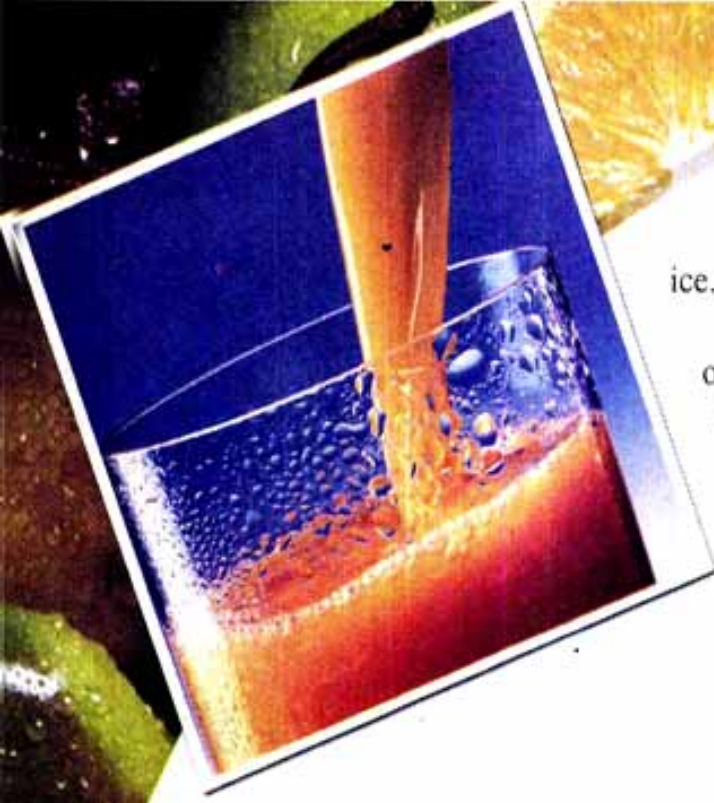
Mango puree – 1 cup
Milk powder – 2 cups
Fine sugar - 3 tablespoons
Chopped nuts (optional)

Method :

Mix one cup of mango puree with one cup of milk powder, stirring well so as to not leave lumps. Pour this mixture into a stainless steel vessel and steam it in a pressure cooker for ten to twelve minutes. (Don't 'lock' the cooker with its 'weight'). Allow the steamed mixture to cool. Now add the remaining milk powder and the chopped nuts to it and mix well. Roll into bite-sized balls and arrange on a tray. Just an hour before serving, roll each mango ball carefully in fine sugar, coating its surface evenly. Makes a yummy dessert!

(Source: A tv show)

- Jayashree Raman,
Mumbai



of honey (more if you need it sweeter) and serve with crushed ice.

If you are using sweetened or condensed milk, you could garnish this drink with some chopped nuts or lace it with some cream.

- R.Reshma, Std.XI, D.A.V., Chennai

FRUIT PUNCH

You need :

Half of a medium sized water-melon.

Any other pulpy fruit of your choice like a couple of bananas or a handful of grapes or an apple.

Honey or sweetened milk.

Method :

Mix water-melon pieces with other fruit and run in a blender. When frothy, run through a sieve and add a couple of spoons of honey (more if you need it sweeter) and serve with crushed ice.

If you are using sweetened or condensed milk, you could garnish this drink with some chopped nuts or lace it with some cream.

- R.Reshma, Std.XI, D.A.V., Chennai

MIXED FIESTA

You need :

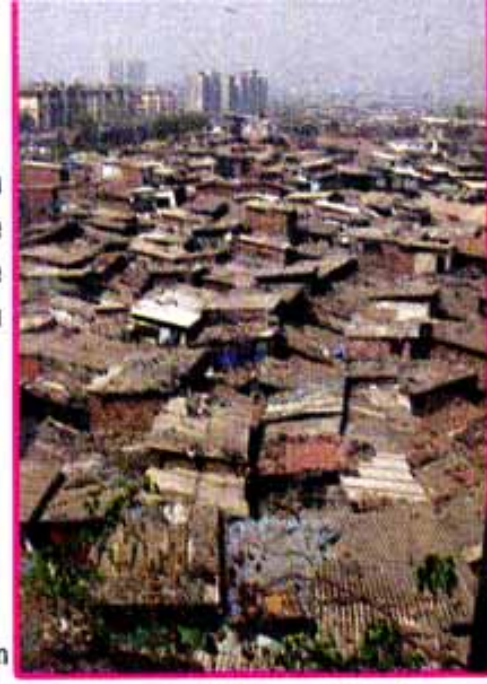
Fresh strawberries – 100grams
Banana – 1
Orange juice – 100ml
Sugar syrup – 1 tsp
Ice cubes – 3

Method :

Set aside a few strawberries for the topping and blend all other fruits together in the mixie. Add the sugar syrup and the ice cubes and serve in tall glasses, garnished with fresh strawberries.

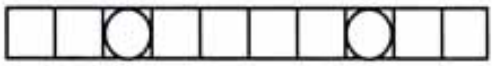
N.Sajida Sultana, Std.XII, Adarsh Vidyalaya, Chennai

Zero-In -II

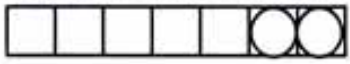


Here are some clues to find words which are linked by a theme. Spell out the words in the boxes below each clue. Now rearrange only the circled letters to zero-in on the final answer. You have a clue to help you do this too.

1. Layer surrounding the earth.



2. Largest slum in Asia (Located at mumbai.)

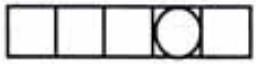


3. A nuclear disaster happened at this place in former U.S.S.R.

4. An inferior quality coal found in abundance in neyveli, Tamilnadu.

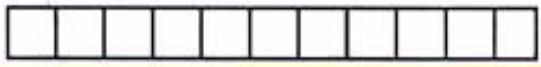
5. An organism that is helpful in making the soil fertile

6. A hole in this layer has made earth less protected



Answer :

June 5 is celebrated as world ..... day



Fill in the form on the reverse of this page and send your entries to Gokulam before **25.06.09**

- G.S.S

Look out for

Gokulam July 2009

ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

Budding Bards Special!

ZERO-IN - 9

Congratulations! Here are the winners of Zero-in-9 (April 2009) and the solutions as well. The results of Zero In - 10 will be published in the July 2009 issue.

1.Madhusoodan M Pataki, Std.VII, K.B.H.P.S. Nivaragi, Bijapur Dt., Karnataka

2. B.Gayathri, Std.X, Dayanand Public School, Shimla - 171 003. Himachalpradesh

3. Sharanya Raju Pillai, Std.VII, St. Xaviers High School, Nerul, Navi Mumbai - 400 706.

4.M.Gurupiryan, Std.IV, Petit Seminaire Hr. Sec. School, Puducherry - 605 008.

5. R.Sundara Rajan, Std.VI, Gowtham Model School, Vijayawada.

1. CROW
2. CHAMELEON
3. APRIL
4. HARE
5. JOHNNY
6. CROCODILE

Answer :

CHARLIECHAPLIN

Zero-In - 11 Entry Form

Name : (Mr/Ms) .....

Age : ..... Class : .....

School : .....

*Residential Address : .....

.....Pin .....

Signature : .....

* Local address is a must for overseas entries.

● Strictly for school going children ● Five lucky winners will get a cash award of Rs.50/- each. They will be decided by a draw of lots from out of the all correct entries. ● Entries with completed grid on the reverse accepted on this form only ● No xerox copies.

Last Date : 25.6.2009

Dangling Butterfly

You need :

Drawing sheet or chart paper
Water colours and/or crayons
Cello tape, glue
Buttons, glitters and shiny particles
Old, unused keys (tiny sized)
Zips or other bits of satin or tassels
Thread
String
Sketch pens

Method :

Draw the outline of a butterfly on a chart board or white sheet. Cut this out carefully. If you have used thin paper to draw, paste the cut out design on firm board and cut out again.

Paint the butterfly cutout in colours of your choice. Outline the cutout with thick sketch pen colour. Now glue on some glitters and shiny particles. Fix the buttons to look like designs on the butterfly's wings.

Insert a thread through each key and suspend the threaded key form the edge of the butterfly's lower wings using cello tape.

Suspend the tassels or old zips similarly from the upper wings.

Hang the butterfly up where there is a breeze. The colours from its wings will flash at you and the keys will jingle, gently.

- Swaha Swayamsiddha,
Std.V, DAV School, BBSR.

Does Castor Oil make Hair Curly?

I have shoulder length hair. How can I make it grow longer?

- Ridha, Gangoli.

Does castor oil make hair curly? What are the advantages and disadvantages of castor oil?

- J.Indhuja, Trichy.

I am beauty conscious and try to follow all the beauty tips. But, now, I have some skin allergy and so I don't use any soap or shampoo. What should I use for bathing and face wash?

- S.Subhashree, Tirunelveli.

My mother says that the use of oil for the hair is good and helps circulation of blood in the head. Is this true? Can I use oil on my hair?

- K.S.Reshma, Kerala

Genes play a vital role in deciding the length of hair. Nutrition is also a deciding factor for healthy hair.

If there is a 'disease' in the scalp (like dandruff), it may be a reason for hair fall.

There is no special 'food' for hair. Remember that hair is also a part of our body. If our general health is good, hair growth will also be satisfactory.

As told by Dr.N.A.Jayavelan
to G.S.Subramanian

Add more protein to your food. Eat more of vegetables and fruits. Exercise regularly. Keep your body healthy.

Sometimes when you are continuously exposed to the hot sun, or dusty weather, hair gets dry. An increased flow of blood to the scalp would then be beneficial. You may apply coconut oil on your hair for this. No medical herb is necessary.

Castor oil stays longer than coconut oil. The former is denser too. Otherwise there is no difference between the two oils or their effect on hair. There is nothing wrong in applying castor oil to hair. But some of us neither like the smell of castor oil nor its stickiness.

As an alternative to soap and shampoo, you may apply a mixture of ground green dhal and channa powder for your hair and the same could be used for face wash too. Shikkai could also be used.

Use of oil is definitely good for hair. But it is not enough if you just apply oil to the hair. Gently massage the scalp as you apply the oil. This will generate heat and this heat will be retained by the oil. This will increase flow of blood to the scalp and rejuvenate the hair roots.

I have a white patch on my face. I've consulted a doctor and he has advised me to use 'Eumosone' for a week. I've used it for more than a week and have not been able to get rid of the patch.

- R.Ranjani, Chennai.

This may be due to a fungal infection. Eumosone is a sort of medicated soap, which will clear only very minor skin problems. Antifungal ointments may be more effective. Please consult a doctor.

June

K.Sruthy celebrates her 15th birthday on 21.06.2009. We wish her success in life.

Wish you many more happy returns of the day, sruthy.

Wishes from Dear **Dad Kamal, Loving Mom Suryakala & sweet sister Varshaa.**

My best friend **Aishwarya Pillai** turns 15 on 5th June.

I wish her a very Happy and Prosperous birthday. May God shower his blessings on you on this special day.

Your best friend **Sushonitha**

K.Nethyaa celebrates her 4th birthday on 20th June 2009. Many many happy returns of the day Nethyaa!

- Wishes from **Dad R.S.Kirushna swammy, Mom A.V.R. Satheyapriya, sister K.Jaipreyaa and relatives.**

N.Adaikkappan celebrates his 13th birthday on June 7th 2009. May blessings shower upon you from heaven and wish you a happy birthday.

- *Wishes from* **Father S.Narayanan, Mother N.Valliammai, Grandpa Ar. Adaikkappan, Grandma A.Theivanai, Brothers N.Nagu, N.Aravindan**

Birthday Bash

R.Subash Chandra Bose celebrates his 16th birthday on 05.06.2009.

We wish him good health and all the best for his new academic year.

- Wishes from

Mom, Dad, Friends Ansari, Iesak and family members.

T.Harsh Singhania celebrates his 13th birthday on June 8.

We wish him a happy and very prosperous and cheerful birthday.

- By **Mom, Dad, Grandmas, Uncles, Aunts and family**

wishes. May God bless you with a bright and prosperous future

- Best wishes from

Grandparents, Parents, Uncle, Aunt, Sister and Cousins.

K.Siri celebrates her 13th birthday on June 10th, We wish her many more happy returns of the day.

- By **Dad K.Ravi Kumar, Mom K.Rathna Prabha, Grandparents K.Subba Rao, K.Vijayalakshmi**

Celebrations

L.Sudhaakar celebrates his 14th birthday on 11th June 2009. We wish him a healthy and prosperous life.

- Best wishes from

Father S.Lakshmanan, Mother L.Sithara, Brother L.Pradeep

S.Shruti celebrates her 9th birthday on 20th June.

Happy birthday to our dear Shruti!

- Amma, Appa and Sister Shreya

S.Maurya celebrates her 11th birthday on June 19th 2009.

Happy birthday with love and best

* L.Sudhaakar

* R.Subash

* Adaikappan

The Big

"Hey Kabuka!" came the shrill cry of a boy. "The chief is going to the 'tree' in the afternoon."

This information was enough for the children and women of the village to gather under the Big Baobab, long before the chief arrived there.

The village was in an African country, far away from the capital. So remote, that to get to the nearest town, the villagers had just one weekly bus.

But the village had a school - A new school, with two class rooms. There were fifty children and a lone teacher was in charge of all affairs of the school.

The teacher had a helper in Musa, an old timer of the village. He cleaned out the class rooms and did odd jobs for the teacher. He also did a bit of teaching to the younger children.

Musa was a typical village gossip and loved to weave tales of horror to frighten children into discipline! He told the children that a ghost lived in the hollow of the Big Baobab!

"Do you know why the cows died yesterday..?" He would ask with eyes widened to terrorize the children.

The children would stare into his face, mesmerized, and looking for an answer, they already knew. "Big Baobab!" Musa would dramatically claim.

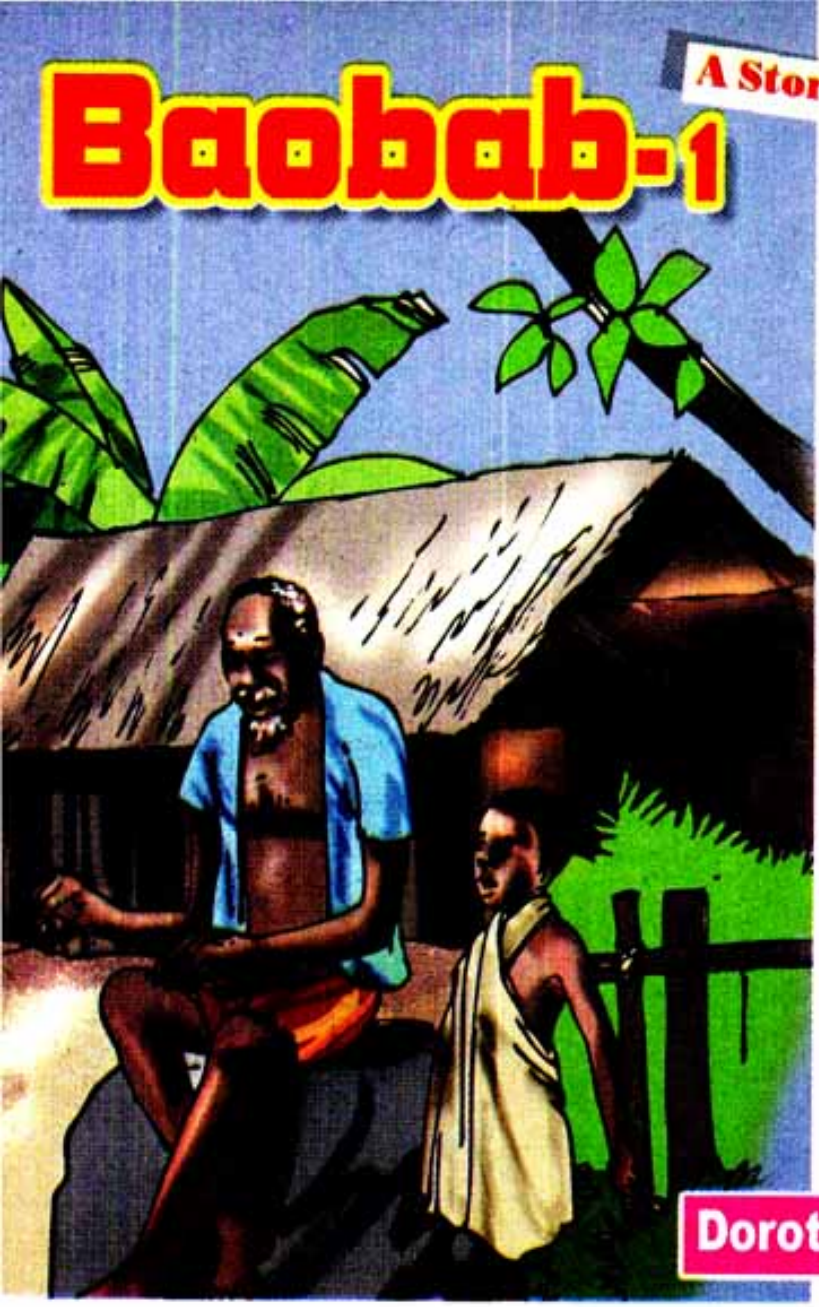
He would further threaten the children that if they were naughty, the ghost would

see to it that their parents beat them up! The village children, in all their innocence, would believe him with horror and fear.

The children in turn spread these stories of threat and fear, in their own way,

Baobab-1

A Story in 2 Parts



Dorothy Ramathal

The elders of the village cleaned up the shade of the tree and converted it into an open hall for important meetings. Stumps were placed all around for the leaders to sit and talk. Crowds would gather in the shade of the Big Baobab and resolve issues or adding to it with their imagination and fancy. Soon the village was teeming with fanciful tales of blood and gore, all woven around the Big Baobab. The tree became a fierce and fearful God to the poor and illiterate people of that remote village in Africa.

deliver judgements, but nobody dared to climb the tree and peer into it's hollow.

2

One day, two young men were seen getting down from the weekly bus, at the village bus stop. One of

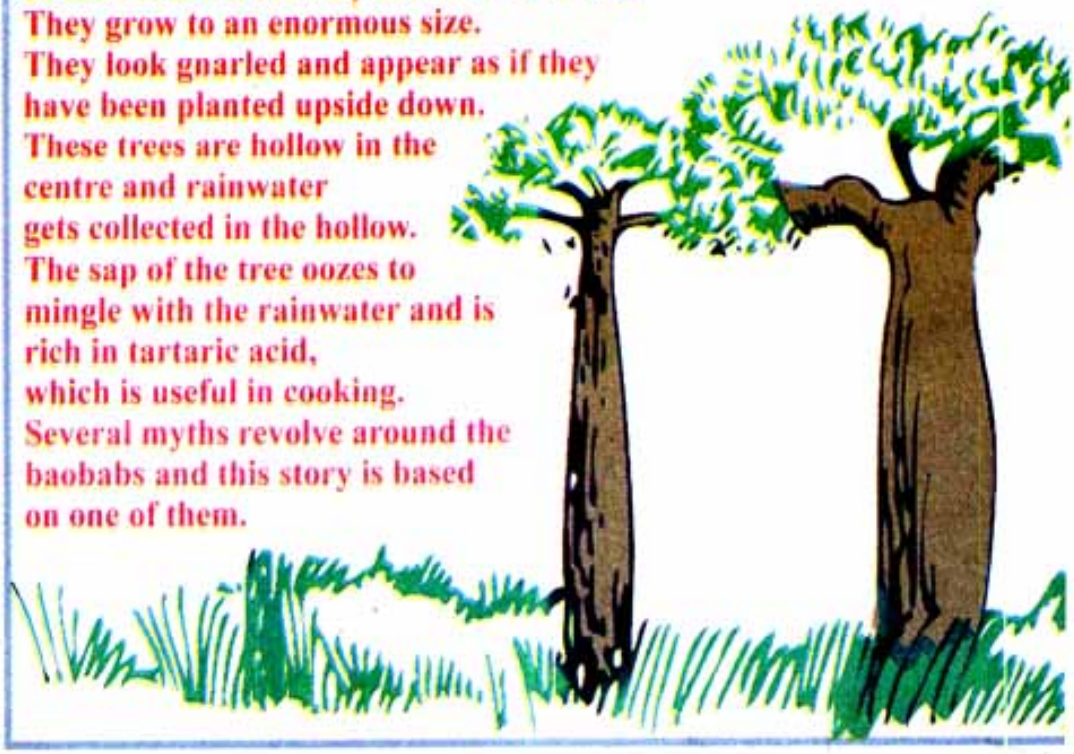
them was Bakati, the village chief's nephew and the other was Bakati's good friend Robert.

Bakati who grew up in the village, had suddenly left it one day with a compelling wander-thirst. The news that came by, spoke of his accomplishments at the capital city. Bakati was now back, on some work, he claimed.

Robert and Bakati toured the village the following day. Robert had many new ideas for the village. He narrated them to Bakati as they coursed the little streets and dwellings. Robert soon put his ideas to work too. He improved the water drawing system at the community well and the irrigation facility for the farm lands. He showed the villagers how they could live in clean hygienic environment. Slowly the lives of the villagers became worthy and interesting. The villagers began to admire Robert and the children flocked around him fondly, with endless questions which he answered with remarkable patience. Everybody was happy; everybody except Musa.

Musa felt neglected. The children no longer came to him and

Baobabs are trees very common in Africa. They grow to an enormous size. They look gnarled and appear as if they have been planted upside down. These trees are hollow in the centre and rainwater gets collected in the hollow. The sap of the tree oozes to mingle with the rainwater and is rich in tartaric acid, which is useful in cooking. Several myths revolve around the baobabs and this story is based on one of them.



were slowly turning cheeky, he thought. They questioned his tales of horror though they still feared to climb the Big Baobab tree.

Musa was desperate to regain his importance. He soon started spreading tales about Robert. Such terrible tales, that slowly the children stopped flocking around their new-found friend.

Who is the Winner?

Hi Readers!

Many of you have been collecting contribution certificates for having your writing or drawing published in Gokulam. Count how many certificates you have since July 2008 and wait for the June 2009 certificates to reach you as well. Now total up the number and if you think you may have the most number of certificates for the twelve month period, xerox them onto sheets of paper and send it to us.

In case a participation certificate sent by Gokulam has not reached you, xerox the published article/picture for which the certificate is missing and send the same along with other certificates. You know a prize awaits the person who has contributed the most number of creations to Gokulam! So, hurry up!

- Editor

At about the same time, a cow died in the village. Musa seized the opportunity to whip up the villagefolks to the shade of the Big Baobab. He was eager to spread the fear that the cow had been seized by a ghost from the hollow of the tree. He insisted that prayers of apology should be offered to the angry ghost.

But the villagers were not too enthusiastic this time. They had learnt by now through Robert and his books that it was no black spirit or ghost that got the cow, but a common disease.

"Come on, Musa! You cannot fool us any more," said a middle aged farmer.

"My animal was seized by no ghost; he died of fever" added the owner of the cow.

The news of this conflict reached Robert and he made a plan – a plan that would never fail.

(To conclude next month)

Vaishno

Since our family is very devoted to the deity Vaishno Devi, my mother insisted that we should make a trip to the holy abode. We went last winter.

From Delhi, we went to Jammu by train and from there we took a bus to Katra. Katra is the last point to which conveyance is available and thereafter the pilgrims have to travel by foot. They could of course opt to be carried in open palanquins by coolies or ride the ponies hired out by the ponywallahs.

Since we had reached Katra late in the evening, we decided to stay overnight there and continue our journey next morning. Katra is a very, very small township and has a few dharmashalas and a guest house. Only vegetarian food is available here. The use of leather is prohibited on the journey to Vaishno Devi! People using leather foot wear have to leave them behind at Katra and hire canvas shoes at this town. They also have to book their entry to the temple at Vaishno Devi by purchasing tickets here.

Having done all these, we left Katra next morning after an early breakfast. We chose to walk. The path was crude and stony. There was a continuous stream of pilgrims going back and forth. Many overtook us and went forward. Some were in large groups, others small and some were in ones and twos. But all of them sang the praise of Vaishno Devi as they trudged along the mountainous path. Some even sang songs and

bhajans. The mountain side rang with the chants of 'Jai Matha Devi'! The whole atmosphere was very elevating.

The weather was biting cold but very fresh. On one side of the road to Vaishno Devi, was a stony cliff and on the other side we could see the mountain falling abrubtly into a deep ravine. In the distance, the mountain peaks wore cloudy scarves over their coats of green.

Devi

It was an atmosphere that inspired great joy in our hearts.

After walking for quite a distance, we reached Ardh Ganga, where one has to take the first holy dip. The fish here are not to be killed! All along the way, local people served us water and roasted gram.

About 7 kilometres from Katra and half way to the holy cave, we reached Adh Quari. There is a small cave here, which is supposed to be the spot where Mata Vaishno Devi rested before reaching the main cave. A lion's paw mark in this cave is considered to be an indication of this. After

a short rest we continued on the winding, steep road and reached Hathi Matha, where our tickets were exchanged for entry tokens to show at the sanctum cave. We also purchased prasads and had bath before proceeding further.

Finally we reached the holy spot where Vaishno Devi dwells in a cave and stood in queue to enter.

It was a very small cave – just six feet wide and five feet in height with water flowing along the floor. We waded through the water and then ..We were before the Mother! She was covered with offerings form her devotees. The cave was dimly lit with earthen lamps The fragrance of incense and flowers pervaded the atmosphere. We felt a deep sense of peace, awe and joy. It was a short but effective darshan and quickly we moved out of the cave and proceeded on our journey back.

We felt truly satisfied that our ambition had been achieved.

- K.Keerthana Sharma, Std.X, S.V. Union High School, Pune

Hello friends, how are you? Does the immense heat of summer bother you? It bothers me a lot! When I asked my mother about it, she said that global warming has intensified the heat of summer.

I had heard of the term global warming before. Now I searched the internet to learn more about it. This is the definition I liked most:

Global warming is an increase in the average temperature of the atmosphere, oceans and landmasses of Earth. It is a result of greenhouse effect – (warming that happens due to the trapping of heat in the Earth's atmosphere, because of gases like carbon-di-oxide)

My mother also says that global warming can lead to death and destruction of many species. I do not want that to happen. Nor do you, I am sure. Today we may survive despite global warming, but what about

Make a

our future generations! We owe it to them to leave behind a clean, green world. Here are some of the things we can do for that:

1. How many of us go to school in a private car? We could switch to public transport or form car pools. Money spent on fuel would be saved and less of carbon monoxide will be released into the

atmosphere.

2. Go around your house and switch off fans and lights that are working unnecessarily. Electricity is saved and the indirect effect of less pollution in the process of manufacturing electricity could also help reduce the green house effect. Spend the evenings in the open air and this too will help save electricity.

3. Did you know that use of deodorants and sprays contribute to global warming!

Use less of these. Use more soap and natural products to keep yourself fragrant.

4. Recycle all the waste paper in your house. This may not be easy for you. You will need adult guidance. Make paper bags out of newspapers and avoid plastic bags. Use more of jute or cloth bags. Refuse to accept plastic bags from stores. They are not bio degradable and add to the junk and induce global warming both directly and indirectly through their manufacturing process.

5. If there is a smoker in your house or family, take courage to tell them to stop smoking. It is extremely harmful not only to their personal health and well-being but also pollutes the atmosphere.

6. Plant as many trees as possible. If you do not have a garden, keep potted plants and little flowering shrubs in your verandah or sit out.

"Will all these little things reduce global warming?" you may ask...Well, it is little drops that make a mighty ocean. So, keep at it and leave a better world for the generations to come.

- Ankita Chatterjee, Std XI,
K.V., Malad, Mumbai.

Difference!

Why do Giraffes

Giraffes have a long neck so that they can reach the top of trees and feed on the leaves that grow there. As other animals feed on lower parts of the trees, giraffes do not have to compete for the same source of food and thus there is plenty of food for all the creatures of the wild.

This is one of Nature's ways of ensuring that food sources are used to the best advantage and nothing is wasted.

By stretching their long necks upwards, giraffes can browse on leaves six metres above the ground. Having such a long neck is fine for eating the tops of trees, but it is a long way down when the giraffes want to drink water! Thy have to spread their legs wide apart to balance themselves and bend over the water holes, to get close enough

to drink!

- M.Pratheeba,
Std.VII,
Alvernia Matric Higher
Secondary School,
Coimbatore

have Long Necks?

WHO'S THE CLEVEREST?

This list of the most intelligent mammals is based on the research carried out by Edward O.Wilson, Professor of Zoology at Harvard University, USA. He defined intelligence on the basis of how fast and how well an animal can learn a wide range of tasks. He also takes into account the size of the animal's brain as compared with the size of it's body.

1. Chimpanzee
2. Gorilla
3. Orangutan
4. Baboon
5. Gibbon
6. Monkey
7. Small toothed whale
8. Dolphin
9. Elephant
10. Pig

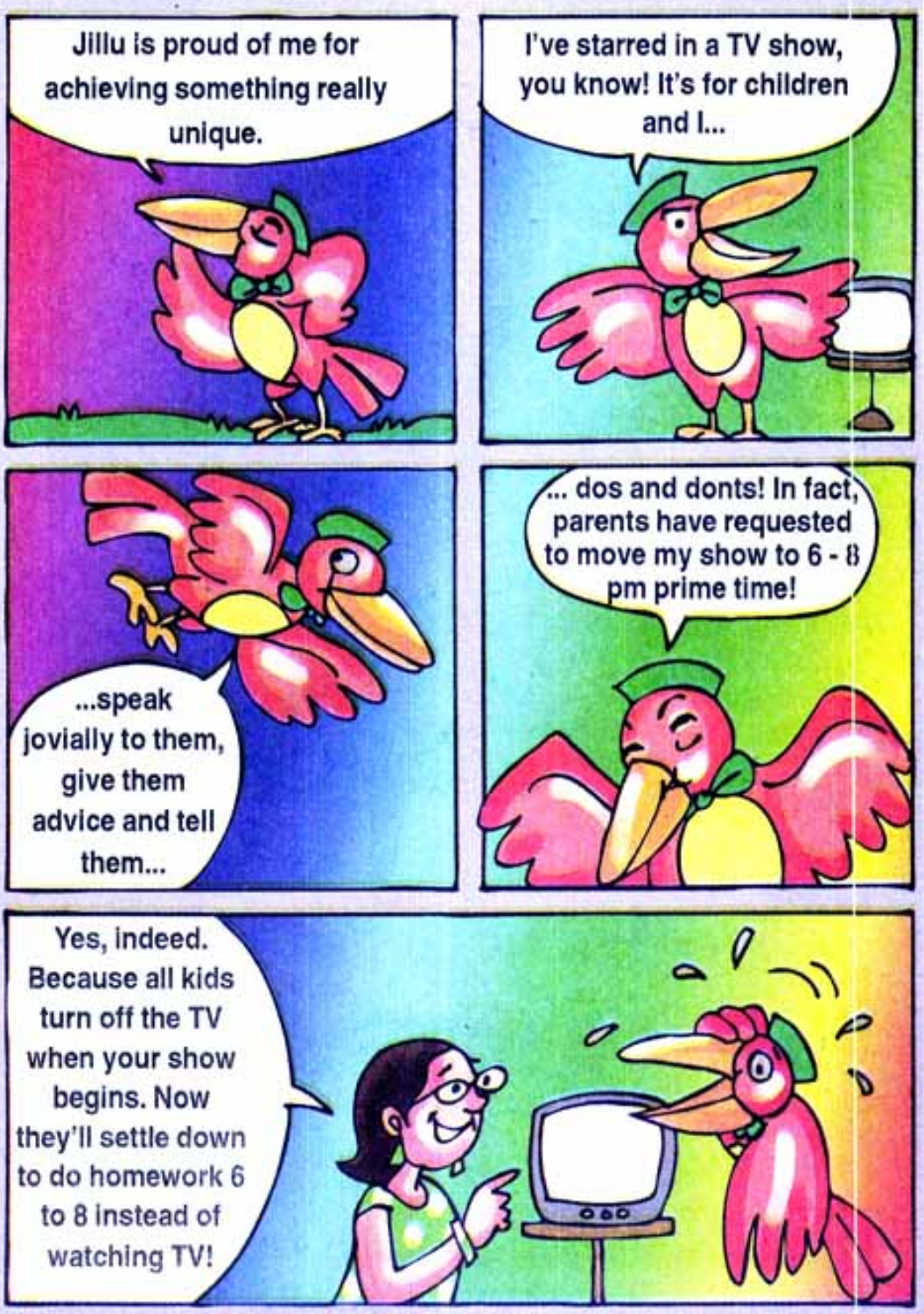
Humans, of course, would top this list!

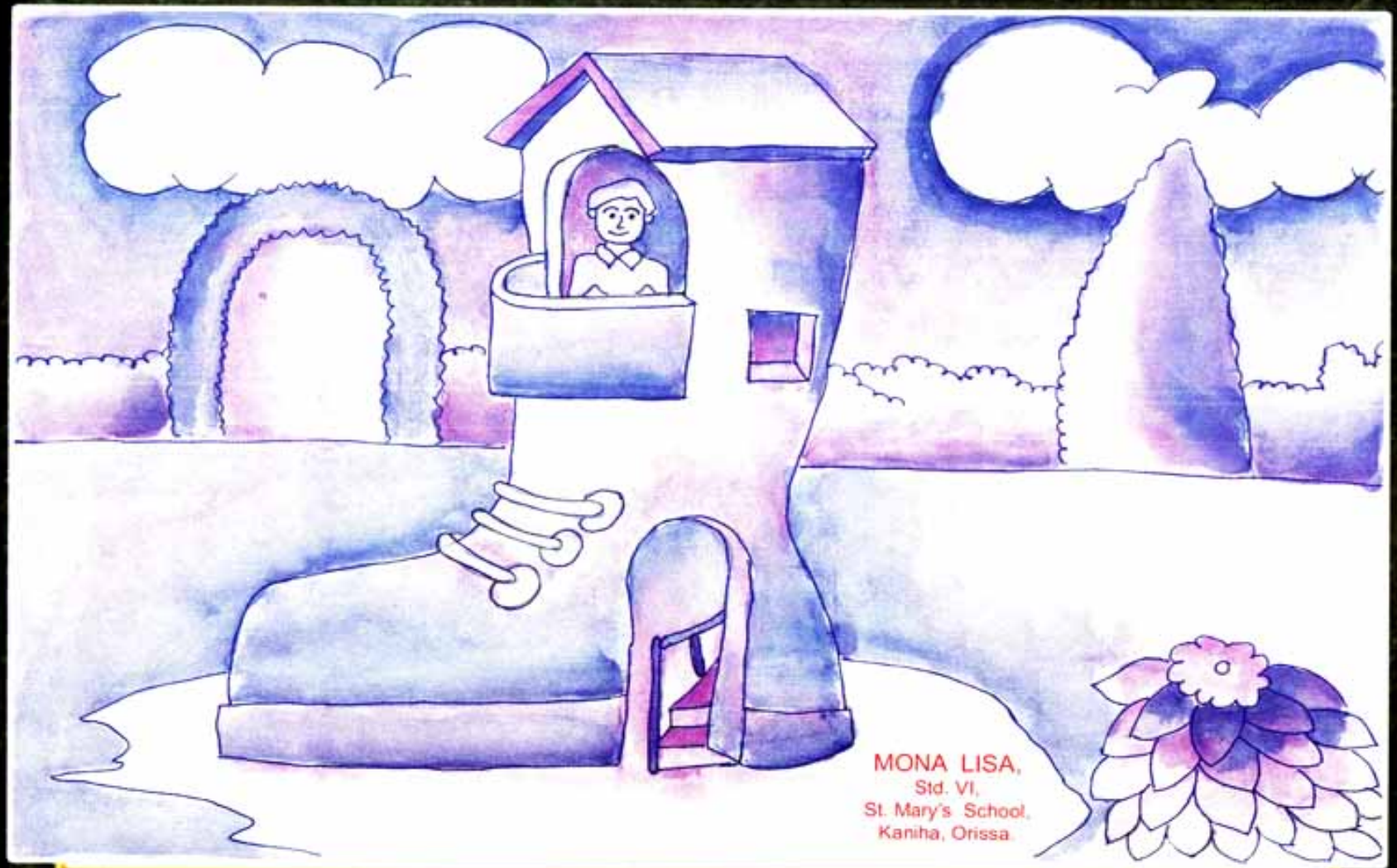
- A.Anees Fathima, Std.XI,
SCISM Matric Higher Sec.
School, Bodinayakanur

Billu

Concept, Pictures: PILLAI

arttichudii





MONA LISA,
Std. VI,
St. Mary's School,
Kaniha, Orissa.

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*1 LIGHT YEAR = 5878171478565.18 MILES (APPROXIMATELY)

TO BE CONTINUED..